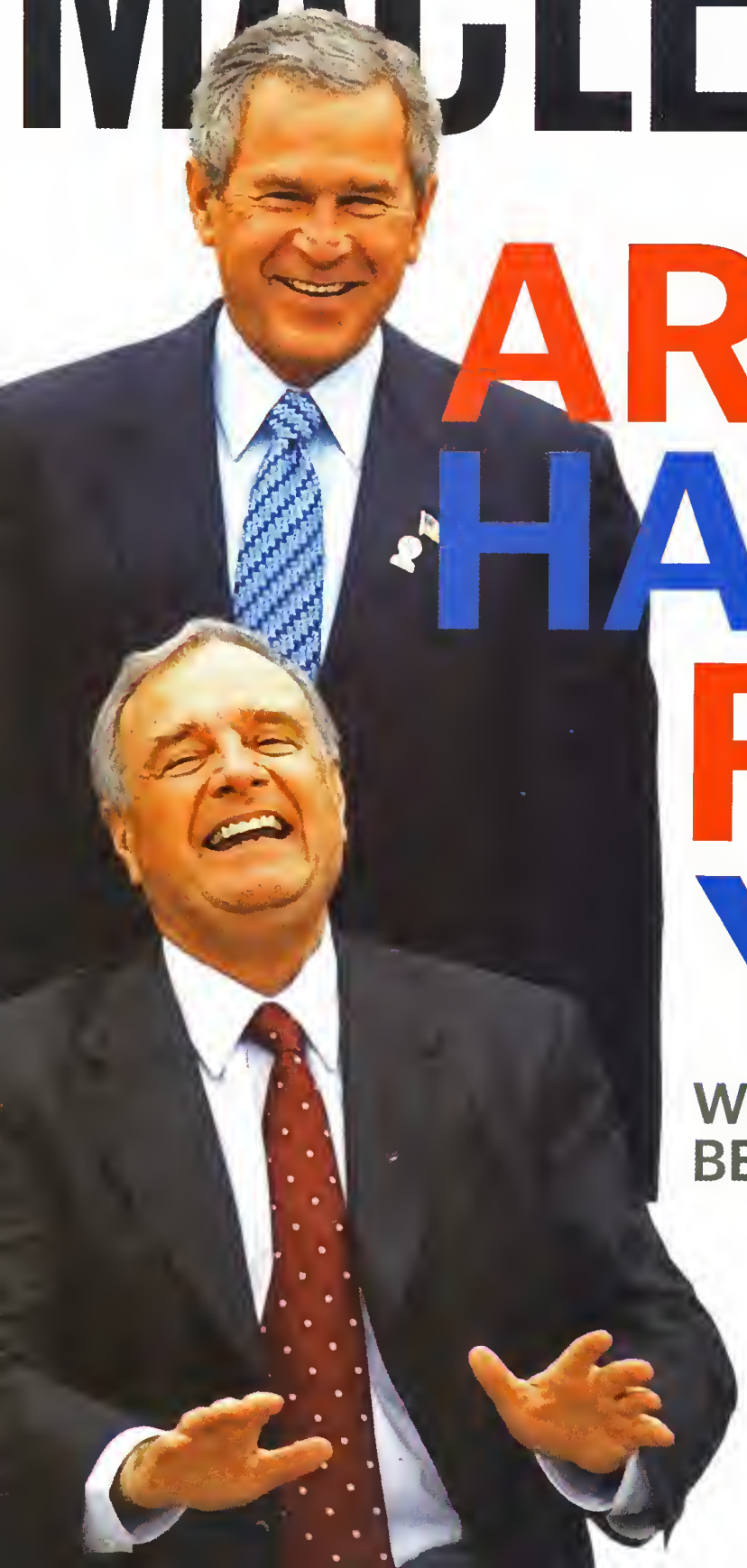
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MACLEAN'S

DECEMBER 6 2004



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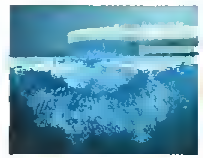
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DEMOCRACY, UNPLUGGED

Ukraine's rigged vote reminds us of why we should . . . be happy for George W. Bush

THE BEST thing about being a journalist is the opportunity to meet people from so many different backgrounds. Start in this context with author Arthur Hailey, whose books (including *Airport*, *Hotel* and *Wheels*) have been published in nearly 40 languages while selling 160 million copies. Hailey never forgot what came before his success—including his time as an editor at the Toronto offices of Maclean-Hunter, the company that used to own *Maclean's*. As a result, Hailey and wife Sheila (who had worked for the company as well) used to occasionally drop into our office when they visited from their home in the Bahamas. He was cheerful and self-deprecating, and the flip exchanges between Arthur and Sheila were reminiscent of those *Thin Man* movies of the 1930s and 1940s in which William Powell and Myrna Loy were forever bouncing one-liners off each other.

The British-born Hailey left Canada in 1969, but retained a passionate interest in people and events here. Every two or three months in recent years, he'd send a fax or typewritten note remarking on some item he'd just seen on the *Maclean's* website or elsewhere. The last note came about a year ago, and was brief: he was hoping to get to Toronto "some time" and to visit the magazine. He never did. He suffered a stroke several months ago and died in his sleep last week at age 84. Along with his books, Hailey will be remembered by all who met him as a kind, decent man who loved every element of the blessed life he lived.

Then there is the Ukrainian politician Viktor Yushchenko, who stopped by the magazine when he travelled to Canada earlier this year. He came off as smart, charismatic, forward-looking in his policies, and passionate about his country's future. He was a committed democrat and a very Western-style politician—or, more accurately, the kind of person we want our politicians to be. I thought then about how far politics had evolved from the old days of the Soviet Union, when the order of the day was single-party rule under the thumb of men who, in P.J. O'Rourke's memorable phrase, were characterized by their "steel teeth and cardboard suits." It was a comforting thought—one since blown to smithereens by the evidence of government fraud in the recent election in which Yushchenko was declared defeated (page 15). The tragedy isn't just the defeat—if allowed to stand—of Yushchenko, it's the failure of Ukraine's whole political system.

> **Americans need no lessons from us about democracy. We demean ourselves by pretending otherwise.**

By way of contrast, consider another visitor—George W. Bush, whose trip to Canada is the focus of our cover package. The majority of Canadians (as shown in several opinion polls) would rather he had lost the last election. But he drew more votes than any president in history after a campaign in which his record, and his policies, were clear for all to judge. Given that, and the fact that he's our guest, it's a good time, John Geddes writes (page 29), to consider "losing the smug, superior expressions that have been frozen on our own mugs since he won re-election." The Ukrainian result reminds us of the fragility of democracy—while Bush's win deserves respect precisely because it was achieved in an open, democratic manner. Americans need no lessons from us on that front: we demean ourselves, not them, on those occasions when we pretend otherwise.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

response@macleans.ca to comment on The Editor's Letter

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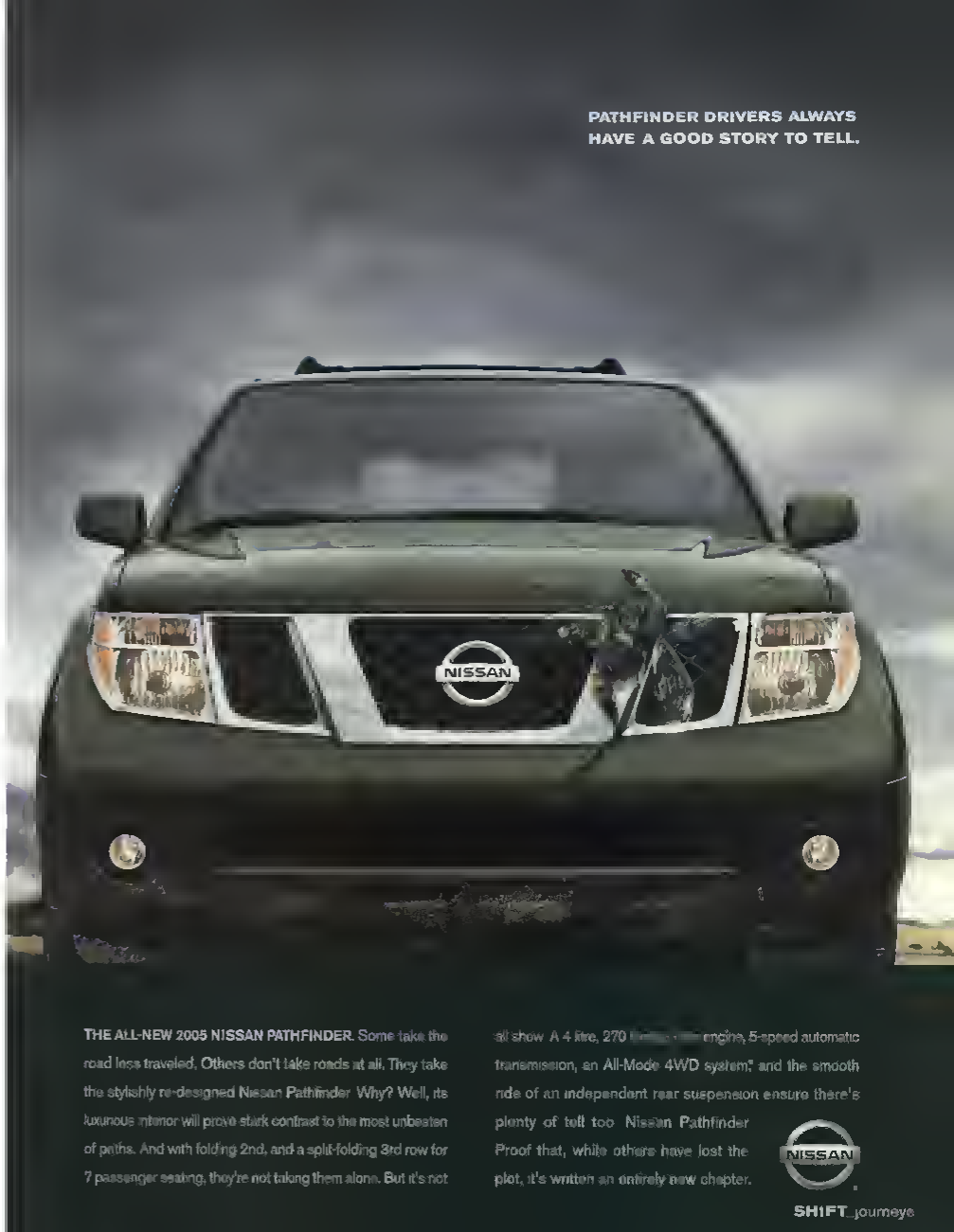
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"Why do these superparents find it so hard to let their kids be kids? My mum always said, 'Don't send them to art class, just buy crayons and let them go.' " –Joan Williams, Barrie, Ont.

Stress-free families

Your articles on children stressed out as a result of hyper-parenting brought back memories of raising my own children ("Stressed out!" Cover, Nov. 22). My daughter had a little garden that she cultivated and took very seriously. She was, and is, very sociable. My son would sit for hours on the basement floor, playing with an old toy, concentrating very hard on his make-believe game. If either of them showed an interest in taking up a musical instrument, for example, or martial arts, they were encouraged to do so. If they didn't like it, or if their interest waned, we didn't push. Of course, mistakes were made on the way, but both of them have done well, are happy and well adjusted. As you say, give them time to daydream, and let them be bored sometimes.

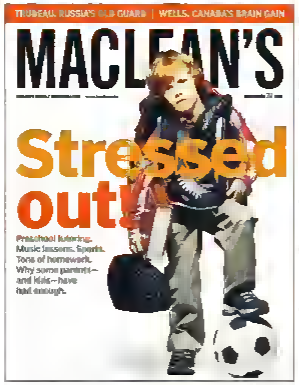
Sheila Gale, Oakville, Ont.

As a parent of two children, ages 7 and 10, I can identify with the pressures of an overburdened schedule. However, do we really need to go to the extreme of letting go all of our children's extracurricular activities? Jessica, my seven-year-old, loves going to music class. She said over dinner on Saturday: "I wish it were Tuesday today so I could go to music class tonight." Balancing their lives with one or two activities should still give them some time to get bored, but it will also enable them to benefit from their activities.

Catharine Walker, Ottawa

Although at times my daughter may have felt some pressure and anxiety, she now enters her late teens taking advantage of all her hours learning and practising piano. She has discovered that, monetarily, one hour of teaching music is the equivalent of 4½ hours working at fast food restaurants. She is the envy of her peers, and has more time for relaxing, homework, or for just being bored. And through all this she has maintained a straight A high school average with highest distinction. In this difficult peer-pressured stage of life, guess who is stressed out now? Not my daughter.

Allan Gruber, Okotoks, Alta.



Thank goodness I was a youngster in the '30s during the Depression—because kids then were allowed to be kids. We borrowed a bat and ball and played on a vacant lot. No uniforms, no coaches, no parents yelling from the sidelines. Just free spirits doing their own thing. And because money was scarce, we had to make our own playthings, such as kites, stilts, rubber band guns and willow whistles. We took pride and pleasure in what we made. We played games like Mother May I, Simon Says and hide-and-seek because they were fun and didn't cost anything. I wouldn't trade my childhood for that of my grandchildren with their rec room full of Nintendo and video games.

Bob Thompson, Victoria

Sparking debate | The pros and cons of legalizing marijuana

Steve Maich's column, "A case for Marijuana Inc.," stirred up controversy among our online readers. Some see the legalizing of pot in terms of economics, others as a morality issue. And still others, like Daniel Conrad of Maple, Ont., see it as a matter of safety: "Could you imagine how dangerous the roads would be with reckless stoned drivers behind the wheel?"

Love thy pit bull

Thank you to Lianne George for her sane essay on the American pit bull terrier and related breeds ("Pit bull, bum rap?" Essay, Nov. 15). It was so refreshing to see something positive being written about these misunderstood, yet wonderful dogs. Just like children, they need a home free of abuse and neglect where they are loved and their needs are met. And just like any larger breed of dog with strength and a strong spirit, they need positive training and socialization to become great companions and/or working dogs.

Ayralea Sauerberg, Calgary

Lianne George claims there have been no reported attacks in Canada by the Staffordshire terrier, the breed of dog she herself owns. But on June 27, 2004, my small Boston terrier on a leash was attacked by an 18-month-old Staffordshire not on a leash. Our dog was severely injured and required two operations. The dog also bit my daughter's left index finger. I was bruised in several places on my legs. The Vancouver Police Department and the pound were involved in the investigation. The owner of the Staffordshire would not claim responsibility for the incident.

Rob Sather, Vancouver

I'm appalled that in a supposedly free country, we are being told what breed of dog we are allowed to have. As a previous owner of a Staffordshire terrier, I have first-hand knowledge of what loving, loyal and intelligent creatures they are. As with every type of dog, it is up to the owners to socialize and train the animal. Do we ban car companies from producing their products because irresponsible people get behind the wheel while drunk?

Leanne Shelley, Saskatoon

Halls of injustice

Congratulations to Rhonda Lauret Parkinson's for blowing the whistle on plagiarized papers produced for university students ("Plagiarize at your peril," Over to You, Nov. 15). As a fourth-year honour's student, I cannot describe how infuriating it is to see other students handing in papers that are completely plagiarized, with no penalty whatsoever. The rest of us labour away, fuelled by coffee and blaring music to produce something of our own in those



last few hours before dawn, hanging on to a false hope of a just world. It's nice to know there is someone out there taking a stand for us.

Katherine Tammilnen, Thunder Bay, Ont.

I am a university student who does all of my own work, but I know plenty of students who take the easy road—and they get away with it. The best thing I have encountered regarding plagiarism was a professor who, on top of requiring us to hand in a print copy of the assignment, also made us email him a copy. He has a program that can compare as many documents as he wants. It catches the offenders—both the person who handed in the paper, as well as the person who used it.

Kali Charambura, Vancouver



Readers connect with Trudeau, calling his reporting 'chatty' and 'straight-to-the-point'

Praise for Sacha

I enjoy my *Maclean's*, some issues more than others. Especially Peter Mansbridge, Peter C. Newman and Paul Wells. I also take pleasure in any of Alexandre Trudeau's infrequent articles. I like his fresh style: informative, interesting and chatty, almost like we are having a conversation. He has a talent for describing the character of the people he meets.

Rob Williams, Parksville, B.C.

Whenever *Maclean's* features an article by Alexandre Trudeau, it is always the first piece I read. It is almost with maternal pride that I admire his straight-to-the-point reporting. He puts his life fearlessly on the line to get a story, and is truly a chip off the old block.

Elizabeth Griggs, Salmon Arm, B.C.

Waiting for applause

I find it funny that once again, in your annual University Rankings, the University of Western Ontario finished strongly in your Medical/Doctoral category but was only in the middle of the pack in the reputational survey (Cover, Nov. 15). It will be nice when the guidance counsellors, principals, etc., realize what the statistics have been pointing to for the past few years: that UWO is one of the top universities in the country.

Christopher Chin, London, Ont.

Going forward, you should evaluate the larger universities on their mix of programs: undergraduate, law, business, medical and academic graduate programs. This methodology would likely place University of Toronto at the top in the graduate school category, but would rightly place other institutions at the top in the other categories—perhaps York for law, Western for business and Queen's or McGill for undergraduate.

George Hungerford, Vancouver

Smoking up

I agree with your columnist Steve Maich that Canada should legalize, regulate and tax marijuana ("A case for Manjuana Inc.," All Business, Nov. 22). This will remove an important burden from our police, court and prison systems, allowing resources to be directed towards more important concerns, such as violent crime.

Kathryn Styles, Vancouver

There is a reason they call it "dope." You are what you smoke. Doped-up workers affect productivity, quality and safety. In an era when we are trying to ban cigarette smoking because of its obvious harmful health effects, what logic is there in making pot more readily available? Why, in our so-called enlightened day and age, do we make ridiculous decisions based on economic advantages rather than moral implications?

> "Just like children, pit bulls need a home free of abuse, where they are loved and their needs are met"

Pastor Rick Chase, Surrey, B.C.

It is time our politicians woke up and ended this ridiculous war on drugs. The fact that alcohol and tobacco are legal and marijuana is not is complete hypocrisy.

Renee Lacasse, Windsor, Ont.

The bright side of global warming

I found your article on the warming of the Arctic to be overwhelmingly negative, devoting a full page to possible changes as "hazards" ("Feeling the heat," Environment, Nov. 15). As a science educator, I would have liked a more balanced report on such an important issue. A better focus would be a discussion about how we might cope with the changes that warming will bring, because cope we will, that's what humans do best.

Dick Tompkins, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.

I am sure that I will not be the only person from Saskatchewan to write in and point out the error in your Passages section (Up Front, Nov. 22). You say Tom Higgins quit his job as Edmonton Eskimos head coach after his team "lost to Regina in the semifinals." Rider pride is legendary, and the Roughriders are the property of the entire province of Saskatchewan, not just our capital city!

Brenda Erickson, Saskatoon

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THE MACLEAN'S READERS' CHOICE
HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

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life inspiring ideas

Tell us which Canadian made the most significant contribution to the health care field in 2004:

- JOHN KASTNER
 Emmy Award-winning director of *Rage Against the Darkness*, a documentary on the institutionalization of seniors
- PIERRE GUERTIN
 Developed a drug that could help those with spinal cord injury to walk
- CARLTON GYLES
 Found a simple way to detect the source of E. coli-tainted water
- OTHER

CAST YOUR VOTE AT MACLEANS.CA

You can also vote for your favourite entertainer, athlete and news event. Plus, tell us who should be the Canadian of the Year. Polls close December 10

Find the results in the *Maclean's* Canadian of the Year double issue on newsstands December 20.

MACLEAN'S

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Your World Right Now

MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



PHOTO BY FRED CHARLES

A FEAST OF IDEAS

A lively exchange of ideas is vital to any democracy. And encouraging that exchange is one of the media's most important jobs.

That's why *Maclean's* is sponsoring the 2004 Grano Lectures on the American Empire. The series of talks by four leading North American thinkers—Canada's Michael Ignatieff (shown above, centre), William Kristol, editor of *The Weekly Standard*, Harvard political scientist Samuel P. Huntington and journalist Fareed Zakaria—focuses on the global role of the United States today and in the future.

For *Maclean's* Editor Anthony Wilson-Smith, "one of our most important roles as a national publication is to stimulate debate about issues that resonate on both a national level and beyond our borders. And giving our readers a window on the world implies bringing outside voices to Canada to provide other perspectives." He adds: "The Grano Series fits seamlessly with our goals by bringing us some of North America's great thinkers—both Canadian and American."

Maclean's readers get the information first-hand through edited versions of each speaker's remarks: you'll find Ignatieff in this issue. A Harvard University professor of human rights, Ignatieff caused a stir when he backed the American-led invasion of Iraq. His support was based on a belief that the United States, as a global empire, could use its power to achieve positive change.

Kristol appeared in the Oct. 11 issue while Huntington and Zakaria will run after they visit next year. A book containing the speeches, along with the Q&A dialogues with the audience, is likely. Grano Series organizers are exploring the possibility of launching a follow-on series focusing on the Middle East.

For further information about the Grano Series, email: granoseries@rogers.com.

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IF GOD DIDN'T KILL THE PHARAOH'S SON, WHO DID?



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UPFRONT

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Uprising | Will Ukraine finally leave Russia's orbit?

As hundreds of thousands clogged the streets of Lviv, mediators from Europe were hoping to save the day

Velvet's been taken, so has roses. There is no tag yet for Ukraine's populist uprising, just a vast sea of reform minded orange banners, a sense of outrage that has crossed international borders, and a revolution in all but name. After five days of massive demonstrations, West-leaning opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko appeared to have the upper hand. commerce and government operations had ground to a halt; some police, military units and even a state-run television channel had come around to the reformers' side, after days in which state-controlled media had not even reported the huge protests.

More importantly, perhaps, Ukraine's supreme court agreed to hear complaints about massive vote-rigging and fraud in the Nov. 21 presidential election, in which Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich from the old regime was named the winner. Emboldened by large demonstrations in several Canadian cities, Ottawa refused to recognize the results. Russia's Vladimir Putin did, however: he doesn't want yet another former Soviet republic—one with nuclear missiles, no less—on his southern doorstep and tilting West. Russia is now one of the players at the mediation table, as European Union leaders have also rushed to Kiev, trying to find a compromise before there's actual blood in the streets.

Quote of the week | 'We contacted them but we couldn't get the time of day. They were rude and hung up.' West Virginia scrapyard operator Wade Peer on trying to get the CIBC to stop mistakenly sending him faxes that contained people's confidential banking information

ScoreCard

LOCUSTS
Plague descends on Israel as peace talk heats up. Shifting allegiance of insects grabs headlines: they fought for ancient Israelites; now mar key moment in quest for security. And Bush thought Canada was unreliable.

RALPH KLEIN
Alberta premier complains that five Ws of journalism have given way to five Cs—controversy, conflict, confusion, chaos and crisis. After sleepwalk election win, media has learned five Ds of his fading command: dead, drab, drawn-out, dreary and dull.

PAUL McCARTNEY
Sixty-two-year-old Beatle to sing at Super Bowl, erasing trauma of Janet Jackson's gilded nipple. A reminder of an age when a mere mop-top foretold the downfall of society. Stick around, Sir Paul, we may still need you when you're 64.

BUCKLEY'S
British study finds yummy chocolate contains ingredient that better suppresses persistent coughs. Company must now hope that pandemic of fake colds among children will drive parents back to the yucky stuff.

JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Mansbridge on the Record



LIVING WITH SECRETS

What happens with the information uncovered during security checks?

WHO WAS IT that suggested just a month or so ago that Canadian politics had become boring? Actually, it was me, but the wonderful thing about this business is that things change. I mean, how boring is it when there are accusations of a cabinet minister twisting the rules to allow a Romanian stripper who worked on the minister's re-election campaign to remain in the country? Apparently there's a shortage of exotic dancers in Canada. Seriously. And how dull is it when there are allegations that a former minister was a "made man" in the mob, a kind of Tony Soprano sitting at the cabinet table?

This is the kind of stuff that could get people interested in politics again, maybe even affect the turnout the next time around. Funny, isn't it, that every 20 years or so various ladies seem to liven up Canadian politics. In the mid-sixties it was Gerda Munsinger and her dalliances with members of the Diefenbaker cabinet; in the mid-eighties it was a stripper in West Germany who caused problems for a senior member of the Mulroney cabinet, and now, it's a peeler involved with Paul Martin's team.

One of the things that intrigues me about both of these latest stories—the dancer and the Godfather—is if they're true, what hint of them was dredged up in the cabinet screening process? How thorough is that investigation, and what obligations are there to act upon the findings?

> "Funny, isn't it, that every 20 years or so various ladies seem to liven up Canadian politics. This could get people interested again"

Whenever a prime minister is about to make a major appointment—from cabinet minister to ambassador—the security services check out those on the short list. Hopefully, the screening process is a little more detailed than the kind of security forms journalists fill out every time some big event is about to occur in Ottawa or elsewhere. Nothing much has changed about me since I filed the first one in 1970, with the exception of that persistent question about hair colour—the answer has gone from "blond" to "brown" to "grey" to indecision these days about whether to print "none." No one has ever spelled out exactly what happens in the cabinet vetting process, but it's a fair bet that personal, professional and financial backgrounds are looked at in some detail.

One assumes that candidates are then confronted with a variety of facts and rumours. But then what happens? What if something nasty or simply suspicious is discovered? Is the prime minister obligated to drop plans for the appointment? Or does it become a political decision where a very different set of values is considered?

I remember well this little gem from 1979. A senior member of Joe Clark's staff had been living with a certain brown-haired TV reporter on Parliament Hill for a few years—a fact that was neither a secret nor of apparent concern to anyone. Then, overnight, things changed. Clark went from Opposition leader to prime minister after defeating Pierre Trudeau in that year's election. The senior staffer took on new responsibilities, some of which meant she would need a top-level security clearance. Six months later, concern was expressed when the investigators announced they had discovered that Clark's aide was in "continuous cohabitation" with, of all people, a journalist—the clear suggestion being that was unacceptable. What to do? Well, nothing, as it turned out. Clark's minority government fell a few days later, and the problem, such as it was, disappeared. M

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of *The National*. To comment: letters@macleans.ca

FaceTime



The plank?

Will embattled Immigration Minister **Judy Sgro** be the first Martin minister sacked? She's under almost daily opposition attack for granting compassionate residency to Alina Balaican, a 25 year-old Romanian stripper who worked on Sgro's re-election campaign. The fact that Sgro's woes may be emanating from disgruntled ex-staffers, and that both Balaican and her Canadian husband said they never spoke directly to her, are of little consequence. The matter is before ethics commissioner Bernard Shapiro, leaving Sgro excessively exposed.





Anchors away

At 73, CBS's **Dan Rather**, the tirelessly folksy Texan, is the second of the Big Three U.S. news anchors to take his leave (in March). He follows NBC's Tom Brokaw, 64, whose last broadcast is set for Dec. 1. Of the three who have dominated U.S. television news for decades, albeit during a period of huge viewer decline, only Toronto-born Peter Jennings of ABC's *World News Tonight* is still in the big chair. But another Canuck is tipped as a possible successor at CBS: political correspondent **John Roberts**, 48—J.D. to his former fans as a leather-jacketed music host on Citytv in the early '80s.



Bad rap

You'd think **Ron Artest**, the Indiana Pacers star suspended almost an entire NBA season for tearing into the stands and beating up a couple of fans, would be a touch more repentant. He is forfeiting a US$5-million paycheque, and probably putting the kibosh on his team's season (two other Pacers were given lengthy suspensions as well). But Artest seems to see the moment as an opportunity to follow his true "path"—as a music mogul. He's brought out a CD, by a girl group, and took advantage of all the media interest to promote it at every TV stop.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: FRED CHARTRAND/CP; RIC FRANCIS/AP; ALLEN EINSTEIN/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES; LONNIE JULU/CBS/AP

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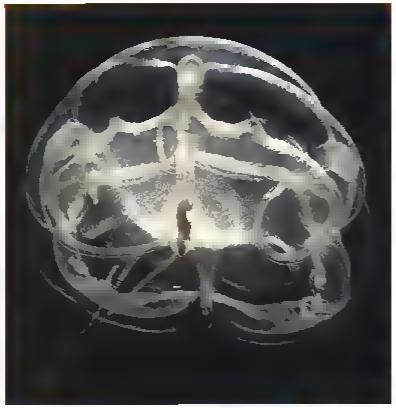
WORLD

FATAL FURY Police raided an impoverished town on the outskirts of Mexico City and arrested 31 people after a vengeful mob **beat and burned to death** two undercover federal agents, and badly injured a third, in a case of mistaken identity. The agents were photographing drug deals at a local school, but residents thought the men were linked to child abductions in the area, even after they identified themselves as police.

DEER HUNTING A dispute over a deer hunting platform, fuelled apparently by racial epithets, left five hunters dead and three others seriously injured in the woods of Wisconsin. Police arrested a 36-year-old man from St. Paul, Minn., an immigrant from Laos, who allegedly started shooting after being forced from a tree platform reserved for the hunting party. About 20 shots were fired and some victims were **shot more than once**, police said.

REFORM In Burkina Faso, Prime Minister Paul Martin invited the 51 countries of the Francophonie to Canada in the near future to discuss **reforming the United Nations**. It's a notion Martin also floated earlier last month with South and Central American leaders and U.S. President George W. Bush.

MIDDLE EAST A Gaza-born Canadian, whose arrest caused an international stir a year ago when he was charged with planning to carry out **attacks on Jews in North America**, was given four years in prison by a military court in Jerusalem. Jamal Akkal, 24, of Windsor, Ont., claimed he confessed under duress. His case drew more than casual interest because it appeared that Hamas, the Palestinian group he supported, might be taking its militancy outside Israel's borders.



WELCOME, FRIENDS Thousands of previously undetected species, like this sub-group of jellyfish from the Canadian Arctic, will be catalogued over the next six years as international scientists take the first Census of Marine Life, a compendium of everything that swims, crawls or merely survives in the deep.

GRILLED CHEESE In a case, possibly, of the Lord working in mysterious ways, a Canadian company operating an online casino was the successful eBay bidder for a 10 year-old, partially eaten grilled cheese sandwich, said to feature the image of the Virgin Mary. The framed snack eventually **sold for US$25,000** and was immediately shipped off to Las Vegas for viewing.

KABOOM U.S. authorities reported 83 cases of **exploding cellphones**, mostly due to faulty batteries or chargers, in the past two years. Injuries included burns to the face, neck, legs and hips. Some experts say that cramming more features into ever smaller consoles is causing venting problems and temperatures as high as 315 °C.

HEALTH

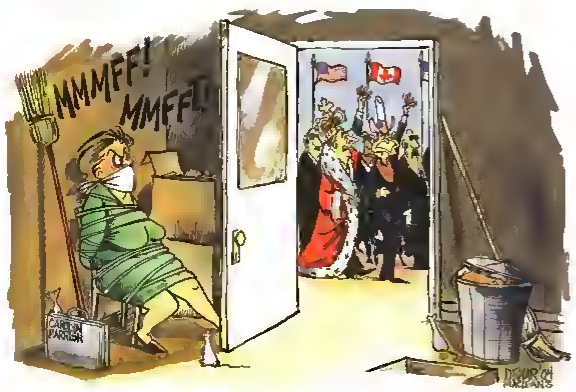
DEADLY FUNGUS A tropical fungus that attacks the lungs and nervous system has been found in decomposing forest material and the bark of trees on Vancouver Island, B.C., researchers reported. They blamed it for four deaths in the province, but said infections are rare and can be treated **if detected early**.

GOING TO POT Marijuana use in Canada has doubled in the past decade, a Health Canada study says. More alarmingly, so has use of cocaine and injection drugs. But pot seems to be the drug of choice among young people and the better-educated. The survey found 45 per cent of Canadians have used marijuana at least once in their lifetimes. And 70 per cent of those aged 18 to 24 **reported toking up**.

NEW CURES U.S. regulators gave fast-track approval to a **novel new drug called Tysabri** for MS sufferers, and Health Canada is contemplating doing the same. The medication helps stop the migration of damaging white blood cells to the brain.

Meanwhile, adults with leukemia have another option. A European study found **umbilical cord blood** is nearly as effective as the stem cells in hard-to-find bone marrow for regenerating healthy blood cells.

BY SUSAN DEWAR



KEVIN RASKOFF/CP

CANADA

TRANS FATS In a **surprise to food makers**, Parliament voted to severely restrict trans fats, also known as hydrogenated oils, in processed foods. The NDP motion quickly gained multi-party approval and would see Canada follow Denmark's example and pass a law to reduce these man-made oils to two per cent of the fat content in any food.

In another show of minority muscle, opposition MPs combined to slash $417,000 from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson's $19-million budget, a message for her to curb **her free-spending ways**.

SAME SEX Ontario's Court of Appeal said gays and lesbians in the province are entitled to **survivor benefits** from the Canadian Pension Plan, retroactive to 1985.

CHILD CARE Ontario will follow Quebec's lead and bring in **full-day junior and senior kindergarten**, beginning next fall. Under the scheme, four- and five year olds will attend kindergarten for half a day. But they will then shift to a nearby daycare, with the cost to be picked up mostly by the province.

BY THE NUMBERS

YAKKERS

Rank of Canadians among world cellphone users	2
Average number of cell minutes	
Canadians talk daily	49
Global average	27

SNOWBIRDS

Per cent of non-residents wintering in Florida	
who are Canadian	5.5%, or 50,000
Per cent of snowbirds 55 or over	64%

SOURCES: TELIFON AB LM ERICSSON, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

CHILD POVERTY After six years of decline, Canada's child poverty rate inched up in 2002, according to a survey by anti-poverty groups. They say **just over one million kids**—nearly one in six—live in households that can't make ends meet.

FIXED HEART Five months after being airlifted to Canada with a fading, overworked heart, **10-year-old Djamshid Popal returned to Afghanistan** fit and running around. Surgeons in Toronto repaired his fever damaged valves. But there is concern over how the family will survive. To keep Djamshid close to doctors, the family is moving to the capital, Kabul, where they have few job prospects.

REJECTION Ontario doctors turned down a new fee agreement with the province that had been months in negotiation and was said to be worth nearly $7 billion a year by 2008. The four year deal offered no increases in the first year, but eventual hikes of up to 36 per cent if docs **abandoned traditional fee-for-service payments**.

BIZ STUFF The **loonie** cracked the US85-cent barrier. China was in negotiations to buy Calgary **oil giant Husky Energy Inc.** from Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing. And several large mutual funds were reviewing the management fees they charge investors after Fidelity Investments Canada Ltd. surprised the industry by proposing to **cut fees on all funds** in January.

SLICK Ottawa shut down Petro-Canada's huge Terra Nova field off the coast of Newfoundland after **two oil spills** from a floating rig produced a slick covering 35 sq. km on the Grand Banks. About 165,000 litres of light crude spilled from the platform and could kill tens of thousands of seabirds, a wildlife official said.



WHERE'S MOMMA? Calgary Zoo keepers were hand-feeding a newborn Asian elephant after its first-time mother, a 14-year-old named Maharani, unexpectedly turned her back on her offspring. Despite formula food every few hours, the 110-kg calf was gaining and then losing weight, and zoo staff were not optimistic she would survive.

CALGARY ZOO/CP

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



WHEN SMALLER IS BETTER

Canada must pursue piecemeal progress with the U.S., rather than a grand strategy

WHEN HE WAS a fledgling foreign service officer in the 1950s, Allan Gotlieb envied his glamorous colleagues in the political divisions, "diplomatic missionaries" who were saving the world from the arms race. He was stuck in the legal division, grappling with the Law of the Sea, unable to convince his high-minded bosses that they should concentrate resources on Canada's self-interested bid to extend offshore jurisdiction. As a result, his efforts at the United Nations failed. And he grimly decided that Canada is ill-served when its idealism trumps its self-interest. His prescription today is tough: we need a realty-based foreign policy that pursues a "grand strategy" such as a customs union with our dominant neighbour. By protecting our economic rights from sporadic U.S. political interfetence, the former ambassador to Washington argued in a recent lecture, "the formation of a Canada-U.S. community of law might reinforce our sovereignty rather than diminish it."

It's a sophisticated and savvy analysis of our dilemma as George W. Bush reaches out on the brink of his second term. Almost 40 per cent of our GDP stems from exports, the U.S. buys more than 80 per cent of those. But I have trouble with the notion that a grand strategy such as some form of common market is in our self-interest right now. For starters, the U.S. is in no mood to make nice with its trading partners. It has a huge trade deficit—and yearns to fix it. Any which way. And, as the ongoing softwood lumber dispute illustrates, Bush does not easily accept adverse trade rulings. New big deals would be tricky enough without that attitude—if only because it's hard to predict how ambitious treaties will be interpreted in practice. Worse, strengthened economic ties with our neighbour could raise U.S. expectations that we will support its political adventurism.

> "I would be satisfied with any policy, big or small," says Perrin Beatty, who warns we may soon not be the largest U.S. trading partner.

So what do we do? Realistically, we should keep forging closer bonds—but on a piecemeal basis, even though that makes it easier for vested U.S. interests to block each move. First we need a coherent trade policy for where we want to go. Do we eventually want to edge beyond free trade with the U.S. to something like the European Union with its community of laws? Do we want a common Canada-U.S. security perimeter? "I would be satisfied if there was any policy, whether big or small," says Perrin Beatty, CEO of the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters group, who warns that China or Mexico could soon displace us as the Americans' largest trading partner. "That will diminish our leverage. We need to be active."

Then, we must move gingerly on key fronts such as better dispute settlement mechanisms, weighing carefully what we need to give to get. It's probably in our self-interest to align many regulations, although that could mean the adoption of U.S. standards. (I'd hesitate to accept the U.S. drug approval regime.) And it's only a matter of time before passports become unofficial I.D. cards: next year, Canada and the U.S. will add digital chips with basic data and photographs for security. "It's easy to say we are kowtowing to U.S. fears," argues security expert Wesley Wark of Toronto's Monk Centre for International Studies. "But our border policies, in fact, defend *our* interests."

In short, neither country is ready for big ideas. We need cool, slow, self-interested calculation. Piecemeal is good. M

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer.
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Passages

DIED Montreal-born **Dan Iannuzzi**, founder of *Corriere Canadese*, Canada's biggest Italian newspaper, and a power in the ethnic media, died of a heart attack while on a visit to Rome on Nov. 20. Iannuzzi, whose reach extended to magazines and television—he was a co-founder of Citytv and the OMNI channel—was 70 years old.



SURGERY Eight days after his B.C. Lions lost the Grey Cup to the Toronto Argonauts, head coach and GM **Wally Buono** was to undergo heart surgery for two blocked arteries. Buono, 54 and a CFL star in his day, said after the game that he'd known he needed surgery for months, but put it off until the season was over.

AILING Three serving or former politicians are going through difficult times. Former Nova Scotia Liberal leader **A.M. (Sandy) Cameron**, 65, has inoperable lung cancer. B.C. Family Development Minister **Stan Hagen**, 64, will undergo surgery this week for prostate cancer. And former Quebec premier **Lucien Bouchard**, 65, has been in hospital for more than a week with peritonitis; doctors said his condition was not life-threatening, but he was not responding to antibiotics.



DIED British-born **Arthur Hailey**, whose impeccably researched novels such as *Airport* and *The Moneychangers* dominated the bestseller charts in the 1960s and '70s, died of a stroke at his Bahamas home. He was 84. Hailey, who wrote for *Maclean's* in the 1960s, immigrated to Canada after the Second World War, in which he served as a fighter pilot.

WON Toronto historian **Jack Granatstein**, a prolific author and founding director of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, won the Pierre Berton Award for popular history given by the National History Society.

CHUCK STODY/CP; ACTION PRESS/CP



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Ukraine | JIM JACUTA, ELECTION MONITOR

A 'GROTESQUELY CORRUPTED' RESULT

A TAINTED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; protesters in the streets, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's claim to the presidency blocked by the supreme court, opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko calling for a general strike, negotiations for a peaceful resolution with foreign mediators. The changes come almost hourly, says Jim Jacuta, project director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Edmonton. Jacuta, back in the city late last week after spending most of the past four months in Ukraine, ran the Ukraine Transparency and Election Monitoring Project, one of many foreign observer groups. He came back shocked. And worried.

What did you see in Kiev on election day?
I personally saw several incidences of abuse—improperly sealed ballot boxes, people turned away from polling stations, people told they had already voted when they hadn't. I also received much more serious reports, primarily from the east and the south of the country. Canadian observers were detained for hours on the pretext they were in a stolen vehicle, others had passports taken. Others saw fraudulent duplicate ballot boxes that officials were trying to hide. Recorded abuses literally numbered in the tens of thousands.

Did you expect all those people in the streets?
Frankly, I'm surprised people have come out in the numbers they have—I was sure there'd be demonstrations, but the numbers are overwhelming. And I'm surprised by the quiet, determined resolve to peacefully achieve a just result. They know the election was stolen. Still, people are remarkably optimistic. They're willing to sit it out for weeks and months if need be. It would only be the authorities that would initiate any violence, I think.

So you believe the election was stolen?
There is absolutely no doubt this election was completely and grotesquely corrupted.

What do you know about the presence of Russian troops?
I've certainly heard the rumours. Many of my staff in Kiev, who screened video footage of the demonstrations, noted Ukrainian riot police and the Ukrainian military, and in the background were people in uniforms they did not recognize. Another thing has me concerned. I made note of the person with whom President Kuchma shook hands immediately after he cast his ballot. I found it very odd he did not speak to the Ukrainian media, he did not shake hands with people from his outgoing staff—he shook hands with the former head of the security council in Russia. There's no doubt Russia has interfered directly in Ukraine's election.

There's been talk of civil war.
While there's a likelihood of civil unrest, I don't at all see anything like a civil war, or the country splitting, as something people on the streets would seriously consider. This is a line of thinking being disseminated by those elements in Russia who have designs, in a neo imperialist way, on Ukraine.

There's a very recognizable difference between how a similar situation was handled in Georgia, and previously in Yugoslavia and even go back to [Boris] Yeltsin and the tanks in front of the Moscow Duma. Ukrainians are much more like Canadians in being conciliatory than the Russians, who are maybe more like Americans in that regard.

So what do you expect will happen?
I think there is at least a 50 50 chance the situation will not be resolved peacefully.

DANYLO HAWALESHKA

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN ULAN



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ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

WHY IT'S TIME TO BE FRIENDS AGAIN

BY JONATHON GATEHOUSE



INVITATIONS can be tricky things. When you travel in the Middle East, for example, people you meet on the streets frequently make effusive offers of hospitality, practically begging you to visit their homes and share a meal. Sometimes they mean it. More often they don't. The invitation is a courtesy, part of an elaborate social ritual: they make magnanimous, you demur, they protest, you make an excuse, and everyone goes home happy.

That's not to say Paul Martin didn't actually want the U.S. President to come to Ottawa. Just that he—like most Canadians—was hoping the eventual guest of honour was going to be John Kerry instead of George W. Bush. Let's be frank: a clean slate would have made things a helluva lot easier. The protests in the streets would have been smaller (our distrust of American power is so ingrained that even President Ralph Nader would attract pickets). The risk of wild-eyed, gibbering backbench dissidents disrupting the festivities would be lessened. Canadian concessions on hot-button issues like missile defence or Iraq would be perceived as goodwill gestures rather than flags of surrender. Martin's promise to rebuild our relationship with the United States would be expediently fulfilled.

But as George Bush the elder once said of the hypothetical: "If a frog had wings, he wouldn't hit his tail on the ground." A majority of this country, along with much of the rest of the world, made their electoral preference clear, and it didn't matter. Sixty-one million Americans cast their ballots to re-elect the President, he increased his share of the vote in every meaningful demographic, and his Republican party cleaned up in the House, Senate and state gubernatorial races. The people have spoken. Canadian fans of Bush—polls suggest 15 to 20 per cent of us would have voted for him—rejoiced. For the rest of us, the only option now is to think of it like an old school friend who seems to have exercised questionable judgment in selecting a mate. If we want to keep hanging out, we're going to have to learn how to like or, at the very least, tolerate the person.

Bush, after all, made the first conciliatory move, finally accepting the invitation after four years of giving Canada the high hat. He has even added a special trip to Halifax to thank residents of the Atlantic provinces for taking in thousands of stranded American travellers in the days after 9/11. Republican insiders are describing the trip—the third foreign visit of Bush's new term, after the APEC summit in Chile and a whistle stop in Colombia—as an "olive branch" designed to highlight the importance of the relationship between the two countries. And the President has already made good on a promise to ask U.S. bureaucrats to end a mad cow-inspired ban on imports of live Canadian cattle. So what if this Prime Minister, or the one before him for that matter, hasn't been invited down to the ranch in Crawford, Tex., for a chummy barbeque? This country isn't ready to go steady.

Now it's our turn to step back, take a deep breath, and try to remember what we once knew cold. That there's a middle ground somewhere between "bastards" and "best friends." We already agree and effortlessly work together on a host of cross-border concerns. On the more contentious issues, we could go back to that pragmatic, quintessentially Canadian way to manage the relationship: co-operation when necessary, but not necessarily co-operation. Trouble between our respective leaders isn't new—John F. Kennedy thought John Diefenbaker was an SOB, Richard Nixon was caught on tape calling Pierre Trudeau worse, Lyndon B. Johnson once grabbed Lester Pearson by the lapels and shook him in a fit of rage. Yet the differences of opinion and clashes of personality never seemed to cause lasting damage to

WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

Many of the issues causing friction between Canadians and Americans are just the latest in our long history of cross-border squabbling. Remember these chestnuts?



HAVEN FOR DISENCHANTED YANKS

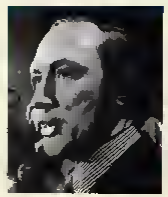
In the 1800s, the **Underground Railroad** delivered escaped slaves to freedom in Canada. From 1876 to 1881, chief **Sitting Bull** and 5,000 American Sioux eluded the U.S. army by crossing into what is now Saskatchewan. And during the Vietnam War, 80,000 **draft dodgers** and deserters took refuge here.

TRADE IRRITANTS

In 1911, PM **Wilfrid Laurier** lost his bid for a fifth term because of his support for **free trade** with the U.S. Opponents' winning slogan: "No truck or trade with the Yankees."

CONTINENTAL DEFENCE

In 1940, **Franklin D. Roosevelt** promised to help protect Canada if it were attacked. The two countries have since signed more than 2,500 joint defence agreements.



HURTFUL WORDS

"Living next to you is in some ways like living with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast . . . one is affected by every twitch and grunt."—**Pierre Trudeau**, describing our neighbourly relations in a 1969 speech in Washington.

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

During the War of 1812, the people of Calais, Maine, and St. Stephen, N.B., on opposing

the cross-border friendship We defiantly steered our own foreign policy course on Cuba, the war in Vietnam, and nuclear disarmament But on matters the United States deemed crucial to its security—the DEW Line and NORAD, NATO, cruise missile testing—we played along, if not always enthusiastically And our grand gestures of support were repaid in kind—the Auto Pact, membership in the G7, help at home when we needed it, such as Bill Clinton's praise for the virtues of Canadian federalism during and after the Quebec referendum.

"Diplomacy is letting someone else have your way," Pearson, a Nobel-sanctioned master of the art, once noted A bit of sage counsel the Martin Liberals must be ruminating on after the lukewarm welcome APEC leaders gave their proposals for improving the global response to humanitarian crises, and creating a new "L20" summit of key emerging and developed nations In a world dominated by one superpower, it's becoming clear that countries are only as important as the company they keep Estranged from the United States, without the comfort of a regional block like the European Union, short on military power and money for foreign aid, Canada's influence has undeniably waned And Martin's resolve to stop the slide seems as open to question as his political future It's been a while since Bono dropped by to say hello

In some ways the difficulty is as much Canadian perceptions as U S reality Bush's demonstrated willingness to go it alone isn't just a problem for us, it's a challenge for the whole world, and some nations seem to be dealing with it better than others. This



Bush's willingness to go it alone is a challenge for the whole world

President's foreign policy draws on some very old and deep veins of American thinking. "We never lost a war and we never won a conference in our lives," the cowboy philosopher Will Rogers said in the 1920s. "I believe that we could without any degree of egotism, single-handedly lick any nation in the world. But we can't confer with Costa Rica and come home with our shirts on." Resolutions and compromise proposals at the UN may therefore not be the best way for Canada to advance its opinions, or interests, over the next four years.

Our two countries are more integrated than they've ever been before. Since Sept 11, we've co-operated closely on improving security in the air, along the border and the coasts Millions of us work, play and spend in the United States (and vice versa) every year It might even be useful to pause and remember the many things that we actually like about America and Americans Their gas-guzzling SUVs, their winter hot spots, the cultured highs and trashy lows of their entertainment smorgasbord Indulging our national conceit that an enlightened world view is somehow tied to the colour of your passport, or the party you support, has been fun, but it's not useful Yes, most Canadians have difficulty comprehending why Pat Boone-ish residents of red states think Hollywood is a bigger threat to their way of life than an escalating clash of civilizations in Iraq, but we are not alone Nearly 58 million Americans voted for Kerry, and even more harbour reservations about Bush's agenda A CBS News/*New York Times* poll last week found that only 40 per cent believe the coming four years of Republican rule will bring their country closer together While 64 per cent think Bush will stack the Supreme Court to make abortion illegal,

banks of the St. Croix River, tried to ignore the hostilities when Calais residents needed gunpowder for July 4 fireworks, they got it from their "foes" across the river.

DIPLOMATIC INCIDENTS

DATE: May 1961

OCCASION John F Kennedy's first state visit as president.

FOR THE RECORD

"Geography has made us neighbours, history has made us friends," Kennedy told Parliament.

BEHIND THE SCENES: John Diefenbaker claimed that some papers Kennedy had left behind referred to him as an SOB Kennedy denied the charge! "I couldn't have called him an SOB. I didn't know he was one—at that time." For his part, Diefenbaker dismissed Kennedy as "a fool—too young, too brash, too inexperienced."



KEVIN FRAYER/CP CP

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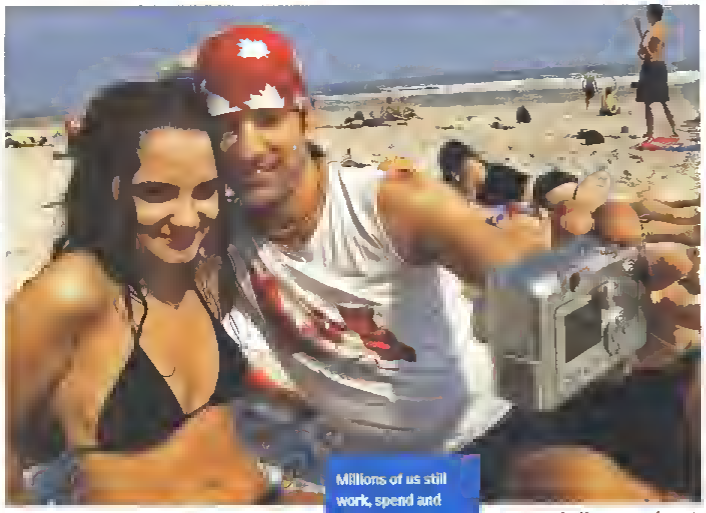
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78 per cent feel it should remain available, either freely or with some restrictions A strong majority—67 per cent—feel the President's focus should be on reducing his US$412 billion budget deficit, rather than cutting taxes as he promised

No one should be advocating the Prime Minister and President reprise the Shamrock Summit singalong, but it would be nice for Martin to make up his mind about who he wants as the next ambassador in Washington. (Canada's incumbent diplomat, Michael Kergin, has been hanging fire since his job was offered to John Manley last December) And we might want to do something constructive about the periodic over the-top anti-American outbursts of Carolyn Parrish and her ilk—ignore them. These things draw attention south of the border mostly because we make them such a big part of our national debate.

Our relationship with the United States may have worsened over the last four years, but there's no indication that the ill feelings are mutual In a *Maclean's* poll this past spring, 74 per cent of U S residents said their opinion of Canada remains unchanged. Twelve per cent said it had improved They described us as "tolerant," "compassionate" and "funny" The public concern about Parrish grinding her boot into a Bush doll should be over why the once-scathing *This Hour has 22 Minutes* thought such a lame bit was funny What are we going to do if the *Air Farce* fires the chicken cannon at the President's picture? Form a Royal Commission?

Since the election, newspapers, magazines and airwaves south of the border have been filled with stories about Americans who want to immigrate to Canada Lawyers are giving how to seminars in major U S cities, Internet traffic on the main page of Citizenship and Immigration Canada increased sixfold the day after the U.S. election, there's an almost-serious website where Americans can advertise for a Canuck mate. Late night TV hosts, columnists and talk-radio jocks have also had a lot of fun at our expense A mock immigration form in *The New Yorker* (by Ontario born satirist Bruce McCall) revisited all of the hoary clichés, warning applicants "Canada is a pretty nice country, but not perfect by any stretch Winters can be long and quite cold There's not much to do on Sundays Hugging and kissing in public is frowned upon." In both the news and humour, the themes are consistent Canada is a pleasant, if rather bland place The locals are friendly We have free health care and really, really like hockey.



Millions of us still work, spend and play in the United States every year

Being belligerent hasn't changed the stereotype, and occupying the moral high ground hasn't provided any advantage at the bargaining table There's no deal on softwood, the border is still closed to our cattle, our dreams of new world institutions like an international criminal court remain reveries Bush's visit is an opportunity to put our concerns back on the American—and the global—agenda We should smile a lot and show him a good time Maybe politely point out that our prescription drugs aren't poisonous, and that medicare works pretty well. In four years, the people of the United States will go to the ballot box again, and perhaps choose a leader more to our liking In the meantime, we should move on Making nice isn't appeasement, it's the Canadian thing to do.

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DATE: January 1965
OCCASION: Lyndon B. Johnson hosts Lester Pearson at his Texas ranch for the signing of the Auto Pact
FOR THE RECORD: According to Pearson, Johnson inadvertently greeted him as "Mr Wilson," confusing him with British PM Harold Wilson. When LBJ apologized for his error, Pearson good-naturedly quipped, "Think nothing of it, Senator Goldwater."
BEHIND THE SCENES. Others say Johnson actually confused the visiting PM with Drew Pearson, a Washington journalist Paul Martin Sr , there as external affairs minister, says Pearson adopted the Wilson version because it was "less embarrassing . . . to be confused with the British prime minister." Soon after, Pearson criticized U.S. actions in Vietnam During a subsequent meeting, LBJ allegedly shouted at Pearson, "You pissed on my rug." JAMES DEACON

DAVID TUCKER/DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL/AP-DONALD UHRBROCK/TIME LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES



HARD TRUTHS

We really haven't got much reason to be so smug about the United States, writes JOHN GEDDES

FOR THAT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY of Canadians who would have voted against him, wiping the smirk off George W Bush's face is a shared fantasy But since even his own image-shapers haven't been able to coach him out of it, why don't we move on to something easier, like losing the smug, superior expressions that have been frozen on our own mugs since he won re-election First, it will be necessary to stop gorging at the all-you-can-stomach buffet of punditry that tells us Canada is continuously bathed in progressive Nordic sunlight, while the United States has plunged into neo-conservative darkness No need to risk toxic shock by switching to a steady diet of Ann Coulter columns and Fox News, though. Instead, try a little

The U.S. has learned painful lessons in Iraq as well as Afghanistan (above)

EMILIO MORENATTI/AP



Guess whose state forced power companies to go for wind generation?

something from this special presidential-visit policy sampler menu, even if these items can't be guaranteed to go down easy

KYOTO Science shows that global warming is real, and failing to do something about it might turn out to be this era's worst example of political cowardice. That would seem to give us comfortable grounds for feeling superior to Bush, since he walked away from the international climate change treaty, while Jean Chrétien's government ratified it. If only we actually had a plausible plan for meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets. So far, we're not even close. Federal strategy now relies on voluntary measures from industry, including automakers. Fat chance. And John Bennett, the Sierra Club of Canada's senior policy adviser on energy, says he has "grave concerns" about Ottawa's political will to adopt a more forceful policy mix. Meanwhile, although the U.S. is offside on Kyoto, energy efficiency rules are often more stringent south of the border. One unnerving example Bennett cites: Texas's nation-leading regulations forcing power companies to adopt wind generation. Those passed in 1999, when a certain future president was perfecting his swagger as the state's governor.

MARRIAGE We're aghast that the Americans would re-elect a president who opposes same-sex marriage, and even wants to amend the U.S. Constitution to entrench the heterosexual marriage monopoly. That sort of backward thinking we would never accept. Except from our present and previous prime ministers. They both voted with the majority of MPs in favour of sticking to the traditional definition of matrimony when the issue was put to a vote in the House in 1999. That was before the courts started ruling that gays must be allowed to marry. Faced with those decisions, Martin—agonized reluctance all over his face—changed his stance. When the House voted again on the matter last fall, the Liberals' decision to accept what the judges had wrought passed by a slender 137-132 margin. A shift of just six votes and our Parliament would have gone over to the red-state side in the culture wars. Let's be straight with ourselves: gay marriage has momentum here thanks to some judges, not because of political leadership or public enlightenment. Bush needn't worry about feeling all that out of place.

GAY marriage has momentum in Canada thanks to some judges, not to enlightened political leadership

POVERTY So we're still getting our heads around gay weddings. On bedrock social-justice issues, though, we just know we care more. We don't need your war machines, we don't need your ghetto scenes, and all that. More Americans might be rich, but it's better to be poor here. Yet consider Martin's main claim to social-progressive bragging rights from his long tenure as finance minister, the National Child Benefit. This reform boosted payments to struggling families, ending the perverse taxing away of income from poor parents striving to work their way to a better life. Hard to argue with that. Yet Michael Mendelson, senior scholar with the Caledon Institute of Social Policy, points

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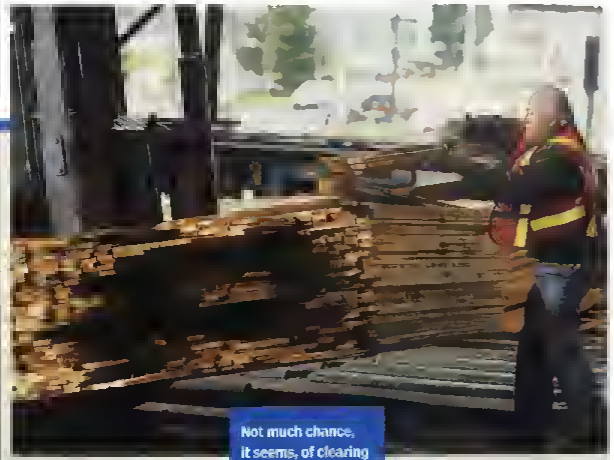
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out that U.S. tax benefits to the working poor, even in the Bush era, are more generous. With figures adjusted into Canadian dollars, and taking purchasing power into account, a single mom with one kid and income around $25,000 is about $1,300 ahead under the U.S. system—and that's real money when you don't have much to start with. "Although we've made progress," Mendelson says, "we're not particularly generous."

PEACEKEEPING. Maybe our domestic advantage isn't always what we imagine, but surely out in the wide world our superiority is unassailable. They're warmongers and we're peacekeepers. We can keep patting ourselves on the back about not joining the Iraq war until callouses form. But we might take a break just long enough to look into who is turning the painful lessons of Iraq, and Afghanistan, into new ways of doing things. Colin Powell, Bush's departing secretary of state, has set up a new Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. Its intriguing mandate: ensuring close civilian-military coordination when the U.S. mobilizes to help a country riven by violent conflict, presumably not always by invading. U.S. officials insist the office will have real clout. Ottawa Foreign Affairs mandarins have long pleaded for just this sort of peacekeeping plus innovation. We just haven't done anything about it. It's still not too late to update our approach, and now we've got a U.S. model, of all things, to help us along.

Had enough? There's lots more. Along with, of course, plenty of compare and contrast exercises that work out to our advantage. But haven't we had enough of those? A little constructive anti-Americanism never hurts—from Sir John A. Macdonald on, we've gotten some of our best ideas that way. But that's no excuse for letting what's bad in U.S. politics blind us to what's good. Or, even worse, letting our pride in what we like better about our way make us lose sight of what we shouldn't like at all. M



Not much chance, it seems, of clearing up the softwood lumber issue

RICHARD LAM/CP

LOTS TO TALK ABOUT—BUT WILL THEY?

MENDING FENCES, talking big ideas, fixing festering problems—presidential visits are supposed to be *about* something, and all these themes are in the running to define George W. Bush's trip this week to Ottawa and Halifax. Preparations were unusually rushed, so officials downplayed the chances of anything concrete being accomplished. But here are some angles to keep in mind.

Charm offensive, or just offensive? Bush's main aim is thawing chilled bilateral relations, mainly through a speech in Halifax to thank Atlantic Canadians for taking care of all those airline passengers stranded after Sept. 11, 2001. One problem is the speech's better-late-than-never quality. As well, by avoiding the bigger protests that would likely have swirled around any address he gave in Ottawa, Bush risks appearing to be on the run from Canadians who don't like him.

As I was saying in Santiago, George . . . Paul Martin might try to highlight what he's taken to calling the "new multilateralism," a potentially awkward contrast to Bush's good ol' unilateralism. When the two leaders chatted at the recent Asia-Pacific summit in Chile, Bush was cool to Martin's idea for a new L20 group, which would bring leaders of key rich countries together with those of developing nations. Will Martin bother raising the plan again?

Say, Paul, this Iraq vote is coming up . . . Canada is considering helping out with the Iraq election slated for Jan. 30. While officials would not speculate on the chances of an announcement during Bush's visit, getting one would be a breakthrough, following the prolonged strain after Canada refused to join the U.S. invasion of Iraq last year. The election is bound to be difficult, so Martin will have to be cautious about Canada's role.

One hot issue shot down in advance. While federal sources were cagey about what's on the Bush-Martin agenda, they were clear about one thing that's not: national missile defence. Pressure from Washington for Canada to sign on to NMD has eased dramatically in recent weeks. It seems Ottawa's agreement last summer to change the pact governing the bilateral North American Aerospace Defense Command, allowing NORAD to feed information on possible missile threats to Bush's interceptor network, has gone a long way to satisfying the Pentagon.

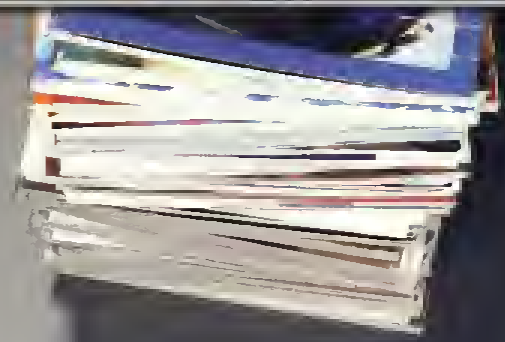
What's bilateralism without the trade feuds? Also down in Santiago, Bush pledged to finally move to get the U.S. border opened again to Canadian live cattle imports, which have been banned since last year. No such luck, though, on softwood lumber. In fact, Ottawa has recently warned it might retaliate against the U.S. law that allows duties collected on Canadian softwood imports to be funnelled to American lumber companies. Not much chance here for Bush or Martin to smile for the cameras.

JOHN GEDDES

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Q&A | JOEL SOKOLSKY

'THE U.S. IS NOT TAKING ADVICE'

The Pentagon's plans to develop a missile defence shield under NORAD deeply divides Canadian public opinion. Although pressure from Washington on Ottawa to sign on soon has recently eased, Prime Minister Paul Martin still faces a split in his own party over the issue. The matter could come to a vote in the House next year. Should Canada participate? Joel Sokolsky, dean of arts and a professor of political science at the Royal Military College of Canada, is an expert on Canadian defence policy and international security relations. Montreal journalist and writer Jean Paré recently interviewed him in Kingston, Ont. Excerpts:

If Canada agrees to participate in a missile defence shield under NORAD, would that be a sea change in our foreign policy?

No, because co-operation with the United States in the defence of North America has always involved an air, aerospace and maritime component. An outright refusal to participate in this would signal a departure from previous policy. We are not being asked to put anti-missile missiles or radar on Canadian soil. We are being asked that missile defence be integrated into NORAD, just as there are things the U.S. does that are part of NORAD but to which we don't really contribute. It makes sense from their standpoint to integrate that into the NORAD system, which already deals with warning and attack assessments, bombers, missiles and, to a limited extent, cruise missiles.

What would the U.S. do if Canada just said no?

That would be a problem, but I don't expect dramatic consequences. Economic retaliation would affect too many American interests. A refusal would certainly cool our bilateral relations and force Washington to rethink the role of NORAD, but co-operation would continue because it is in the interests of the U.S. to maintain it for air and sea defence. And most of that security co-operation is non-military. It is exchange of intelligence, and co-operation on immigration and security of the border. We are not really being asked to spend a great deal of our wealth to defend North America.

Some think that when it comes to important defence decisions, Canada's opinion doesn't matter much.

The U.S. does not need Canada to defend itself—in the case of a major threat, it would do what it needs to. That applies not only to Canada, but to any U.S. ally—it is just the reality of international relations. On issues affecting vital American interests, the U.S. is not taking advice from allies. We are not being treated any differently than other allies by this administration.

You have suggested that Canada should concentrate on a domestic role for the Canadian Forces and reduce overseas commitments.

Yes. We will have to go overseas—the United States regards this as a litmus test. But what we should do is limit our multiple commitments. We don't have the means. In view of the fact that the government is not going to pour billions into defence, I would do what the national security policy of April 2004 suggests: be selective and strategic.

Wouldn't that reduce Canada's world influence?

The reality is, we cannot ever put enough troops on the ground overseas to dramatically affect [other countries'] foreign policy. So this notion that deployment buys us influence is a myth, and it is not unique to Canada. But we have a lot of influence over the North Atlantic fisheries because we can put forces out there to enforce our law. That is in our interest. M

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRAD LOWE/CFB KINGSTON

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Editor's Note

SCOTT MORRISON

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If past events in sport seem as if they happened only yesterday, wait till you look back on today.

If you're as old as I am, you might remember a time when ski resorts regarded snowboarders the way china shops regarded bulls. If they allowed them on the premises at all, ski resorts relegated snowboarders to the tracks where they couldn't damage anything except themselves.



Boards galore (p. S4)

Of course, that was the very attraction of snowboarding. And as more people caught on, the resorts, not the boarders, had to change their attitude. As writer Leslie Wort discovered, 1.5 million Canadians still ski, but now they share the slopes with more than 650,000 snowboarders of all ages **(Hordes on boards, p. S4)**.

Even I didn't remember the name of the former Los Angeles King who shares the record with Wayne Gretzky as the only other teenager in the NHL to have scored more than 50 goals in a season. And when you read his story by senior writer Scott Burnside, the ex-King's name might come as a surprise to you, too **(The other great one, p. S14)**.

While we're at it, how many of us remember when a Canadian team won the Alfred Dunhill Cup? At 80-to-1 odds, Dave Barr, Rick Gibson and Ray Stewart went to the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland with modest expectations, although Gibson put money on his team at a nearby betting shop, just in case. As writer Tim Whamsby explains, Gibson's bet paid off, big time, when the three Canadians defeated teams manned by the likes of Curtis Strange, Ernie Els and Jesper Parnevik to win the Cup, the only Canadians to do it in the event's 15-year history **(Against all odds, p. S8)**.



Gretzky and me (p. S14)

Years from today, Canadians will look back with pride at another couple of Canadians, the husband-and-wife team of Wayne and Sherry Middeugh. The Middeughs have won just about every honour in the curling world, as their neighbour and Associate Editor John Gordon discovered, and their superior skills have earned them a nice lifestyle, too **(Life on the rocks, p. S11)**.

Sports give us a lot of fond memories. *Sportsnet Magazine* keeps those memories alive.

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ROGERS



On September 15, the day before NHL owners slammed the door shut on their players and ended the 2004-2005 season before it even began, Canuck fans in Vancouver might have wondered if the lockout would really happen. Now they wonder when it will end. Don't we all?

Hordes on boards

They're standing in your lift line. They're sleeping in your chalet. Get used to it. Snowboarders are here to stay.

by Leslie Wolt

IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE SINGLE-PLANKERS FIRST SLID onto Canadian slopes, alarming skiers with their dress sense, their wide-turn trajectories and in some cases by their mere presence alone

But after a hard few years when the winter sports world slammed the door in their youthful faces, snowboarders have flung that door wide open

According to the Canadian Ski Council (which curiously has yet to change its name) seven of 10 Canadian snowboarders are male and 84% are under the age of 25 It's a lucrative market with a thrill in its heart and a bulge of bills in its pocket, even if those pockets hang down by its knees

U S studies reveal an even more revolutionary bent among the baggy pant brigade In the last decade, visits by skiers to U S resorts dropped 18%, yet boarder visits increased a whopping 306% Boarders are young male and flourishing on both sides of the border

How did the party start? It was inspired by the monoski – a 1980s French experiment turned international embarrassment Unlike skis, the first snowboards had no metal edges They were designed for deep powder travel and were never meant for hard-pack Some pioneer riders



came from urban skateboarding worlds. They had no experience of mountain etiquette. When these mad lads skidded onto groomed trails from Whistler, B.C., to Marble Mountain, Nfld., and started crashing into astonished skiers, the impact went far beyond the mountain. Kids from coast to coast saw that boarding on snow was risky and rebellious. Best of all, it was something their parents didn't understand.

Until the parents started riding themselves. baby boomers on boards. Nearly a generation after its invention, some 1,588,000 Canadians ski exclusively, 658,000 snowboard exclusively, and more than 10% do both. Boarding is fun, relatively easy to pick up, and even old guys can do it.

'I got bored, so I went back to skiing for a while,' says Ralph Sale, co-owner of Canadian Powder Tours, a chalet and backcountry guiding outfit in Fernie, B.C. Sale first turned from skiing to boarding in the early 1980s, riding a home-made board that got him banned from the lifts at Vancouver's Grouse Mountain. He now alternates, according to snow conditions and his mood. "The technology just wasn't there until the mid-90s to go fast on the groomed runs with a board,' he says. "Now I like and do them all – telemarking, boarding, and skiing. But the ultimate thing on a snowboard is always the powder."

Like Sale, some boarders went back to two sticks when shaped skis and fat skis started coming on line around a decade ago. But with technical advances in each pursuit, both camps have grown far less militant about what they wear on their

> **"I have to admit, some of my best friends are still skiers. They seem to like it."**

feet. And from the knees up, we're all beginning to look like each other anyway. From baggy trousers to beanies, snow boarders' sway over ski fashion has been as big as its influence on the winter retail industry as a whole. According to BBC Consulting in Denver, U.S. sales of snowboard gear climbed 49.5% between 1998 and 2003, to US$244.8 million. During the same period, sales of ski equipment dropped by 26.4% to US$528.3 million.

As boarders spend money on their sport, so the sport spends money on them. Almost every resort now has a Terrain park – the jumps, pipes and rails that were once built to contain snowboarders and keep them away from their more civilized skiing cousins. Some resorts have built several. And they don't come cheap.

It takes more than a few guys pushing snow around with a tractor to build a Terrain park. Bean counters at Intrawest, for example, have signed cheques for $140,000 or more for a Zaugg Pipe Monster, the machine that forms snow pipes 150 metres long and five metres wide that boarders ride like tsunamis. Whistler-Blackcomb, a couple of hours north of Vancouver, has two of these devices. The resort has been building parks and pipes since 1994 and now has nine across two mountains, 10 if you include the one that opens for summer.

"We used to have one groomer for a few hours when we first started," explains Stu "Ozzy" Osborne, Terrain Parks and Pipes Supervisor at Whistler-Blackcomb. "Now we have six or seven snow-cat operators and pipe shapers per night on both mountains for full 10-hour shifts. Park staff has gone from two or three to 16, plus 28 volunteers." Osborne says the resort has installed 50 rails and jibs, the iron bars and wooden obstacles like tree stumps that made boarding so entertaining, at least for the fearless. "We've spent $40,000 each year for the past two years on rails alone," he says.

HAVE BOARD, WILL TRAVEL

Mad lads on snowboards skidded onto groomed trails from coast to coast and started crashing into astonished skiers. The impact was immediate. Kids saw that boarding on snow was risky and rebellious. Best of all, it was something their parents didn't understand. Until parents started boarding too.



BLUEBERG / PHOTON CA



Unlike skis, the first snowboards that appeared on Canadian slopes in the 1980s had no metal edges. They were designed for deep-powder travel and were never meant for hard-packed snow.

Across the provincial border, Alberta's Lake Louise once regarded boarding as a dirty little secret. A few years ago, says Christine Grimble, Director of Sales at Lake Louise, the resort relegated boarders to a hidden side slope where no one could see them. "Now we've moved our park to one of the key high-profile spots on the mountain," she says, "one of our main runs."

Still not convinced? Perhaps it's time to climb aboard for a run or two. You, too, can discover the thrill of trashing a powder slope in just two turns and learn the Masonic-like secrets of keeping loose pants up. In any case, there's a new climate of understanding on today's ski and snowboard slopes.

"In the beginning everyone used to call them 'gays on trays'," says Robert Reindl, who has shred many a line both heli-boarding and heli-skiing in British Columbia, "but then we saw how much fun they were having. Now the secret's out."

Not everyone has followed Reindl's lead, he says. "I may have gone over to the dark side, but I have to admit that some of my best friends are still skiers. They seem to like it."

Leslie Woit is a freelance writer in Toronto. She can be reached at lwoit@aol.com

BOARDING BITS

OF CANADIAN SNOWSOARDERS 12 YEARS PLUS:

- **14.7%** – 3,935,000 participate in one or more forms of skiing, downhill, snowboarding, cross-country, or a combination of disciplines, a decrease of 3.2% over 2002.
- **11.5%** – 3,059,000 participate in one or more forms of Alpine skiing, a decrease of 2.4% over 2002.
- **5.8%** – 1,588,000 downhill ski exclusively, a decrease of 0.3% from 2002.
- **2.5%** – 658,000 snowboard exclusively, a decrease of 3.0% over 2002.
- **3.2%** – 843,000 participate in combinations of downhill skiing, snowboarding and cross country skiing, a decrease of 1.7% over 2001.
- **3.3%** – 876,000 cross-country ski exclusively, a decrease of 0.8% over 2002.
- **2.5%** – 651,000 participate in both Alpine and cross-country activities, a decrease of 0.9% over 2002.

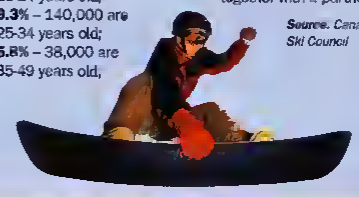
OF ALL CANADIAN SNOWSOARDERS:

- **47.9%** – 315,000 are 12-17 years old,
- **35.7%** – 235,000 are 18-24 years old;
- **9.3%** – 140,000 are 25-34 years old;
- **5.8%** – 38,000 are 35-49 years old,
- **0.2%** – 1,000 are 50-64 years-old, and
- **1.1%** – 7,000 are 65 years or older.

SNOWSOARDERS ARE MOSTLY YOUNG, SINGLE, AND MALE:

- **69.4%** are male, **30.7%** are female.
- **82.7%** of snowboarders are single, divorced, separated or widowed.
- **17.5%** are married or living together with a partner.

Source: Canadian Ski Council



ROYALTY FREE / CORBIS / MAXIMA

Against all odds

Ten years ago, an outranked and inexperienced Canadian threesome bucked the odds to win one of golf's most prestigious team prizes, the Alfred Dunhill Cup.

by Tim Wharnsby

BEFORE MIKE WEIR CAPTIVATED CANADA WITH HIS VICTORY AT THE 2003 Masters, Canadian golfers Dave Barr, Rick Gibson and Ray Stewart stunned the world in 1994 with an even more unlikely win at the Old Course at St Andrews, Scotland

Entering as 80-1 longshots, the three British Columbians represented Canada at a now defunct team event, the Alfred Dunhill Cup Their opponents that year in the 16-country tournament included Ernie Els, Bernhard Langer, Nick Price, David Frost, Tom Kite, Jesper Parnevik and Curtis Strange

Ever the optimist, Gibson dropped by a local betting shop to place a few pounds on his team He thought the odds were reasonable considering that, although Barr was a two-time PGA Tour winner, he was ranked 170th in the world. Gibson ranked 215th and Stewart, 452nd.

"We kind of bucked the odds," said Gibson

That wasn't the case on Day 1, when Canada opened against Sweden and lost. Until that week, Stewart and Gibson had never played St Andrews And no matter how many stories Barr told them about how harsh the weather could turn at the Old Course they had difficulty fathoming how nasty the conditions could become

When they made the short walk from the Old Course Hotel to the practice range on the first day of competition Gibson and Stewart quickly appreciated Barr's warnings The wind was gusting up to 83 kilometres an hour

Stewart was the only Canadian to win his match that day, edging Jesper Parnevik 76-77. Barr lost on the second playoff hole to Gabriel Hjertstedt Gibson fell to Anders Forsbrand, 81-85.



OVER THE TOP UNDERDOGS

Given one chance in 80 of winning, Canada's team of (1 to 1) Ray Stewart (ranked 452nd), Rick Gibson (252nd) and Dave Barr (170th) beat the odds to win the 1994 Alfred Dunhill Cup, defeating the U.S. 2-1 in the final.

In the 15 years between 1985 and 2000 when teams competed for the Dunhill Cup (called the Alfred Dunhill Cup after 1992) it was won three times by the U.S., twice by Australia, England, Ireland, Spain and South Africa and only once by Sweden, Scotland and Canada.

Canada's week turned around on the second day, against Zimbabwe Gibson surprised Tony Johnstone, 71-72, but Stewart lost to Mark McNulty, 71-76, leaving Barr to play the hero Barr won his match on the finishing hole against Nick Price when he sank a 14-foot birdie putt

On Day 3, the final 18 holes of the preliminary round, Canada needed a win over Germany and Zimbabwe had to beat Sweden, so that Canada could advance to the semifinal Zimbabwe did its part

As they did on Day 2, Gibson won his match, and Stewart lost, leaving Barr to play the hero once again And once again, Barr came through, outlasting Bernhard Langer 69-70 and sending Canada past the preliminary rounds for the first time in the tournament's 10 year history

"Dave inspired us," said Stewart, who recorded a couple of runner-up finishes on the PGA Tour in the late 1980s "Rick was also inspiring to come back with three straight wins after shooting the highest round (85) of the tournament"

On the final day against South Africa in the morning semifinals, Stewart scored a five-shot victory over former Canadian Open champion David Frost, 70-75 Gibson followed with a 70-74 win over Wayne Westner, taking the heat off Barr, who lost 68-72 to Ernie Els

In the afternoon final Canada met the United States whose members, Tom Kite, Curtis Strange and Fred Couples, had collectively won 47 PGA Tour events and four major championships

Barr opened with a win over Kite, the 1992 U S Open title holder Gibson finished seven shots back of two-time U S Open winner Curtis Strange's five-under 67. Stewart, playing against the world's 6th-ranked player at the time, 1992 Masters champ Fred Couples, started with three birdies on the first six holes and held a two shot lead after 15 holes "I was on the 16th green and leading Fred by two strokes when they posted Dave's victory," Stewart said "I said to myself, Now it's up to me "

Stewart's little pep talk worked He rolled in a 14-foot putt for par at No 16, while Couples missed a 30-incher for par On the last two holes, Stewart scored a bogey and a par, Couples a par and a birdie, leaving Stewart with an improbable win The victory earned each Canuck $216,000

The Alfred Dunhill Cup performance also boosted Stewart's immediate confidence Six weeks later, he regained his PGA Tour card for the 1995 season

"The win generated a lot of excitement," Stewart recalls "and it's still nice to be known as one-third of Canada's winning team at the 1994 Alfred Dunhill Cup And I got to go on Front Page Challenge How big is that?"

Prior to the Alfred Dunhill Cup victory, Stewart had two runner-up finishes on the PGA Tour, in 1987 and 1989, but had never captured a pro tour event That drought ended in 1999, when Stewart won the Edmonton Open and the Canadian Masters on the Canadian Tour

Ten years later, Gibson, 43, still lives in Manila with his wife and their two children and makes a good living playing on the Asian and Japanese Tours. He recorded nine top 10 finishes this year, including a pair of runner-up showings

Barr, 52, completed his second season this year on the Champions Tour After winning on the senior circuit in 2003, he finished 46th on the money list this year with four top 10s Stewart, 51, played sparingly on the Canadian Tour last summer, but has advanced to the final stage of the Champions Tour's six round qualifying school

It was a victory of major proportions and one I will remember the rest of my life," Barr says. "For me, it was a very emotional day I'm so proud to have a victory representing my country That's why I had a tear in my eye [after Canada won]"

No doubt Gibson had tears of a different sort when his unlikely bet paid off at 80-1.

Tim Wharnsby is a veteran sports writer in Toronto.



STEVE MUNDAY COUPLES RAY D'CAMP GI ALLSPORT

ODDS-ON FAVORITES

By the time of the 1994 Alfred Dunhill Cup competition, the U.S. team of Fred Couples, Curtis Strange and Tom Kite (left to right) had collectively won 47 PGA Tour events and four major championships. At 25, South African Ernie Els had won the 1994 U.S. Open.

STEVE MUNDAY / ALLSPORT

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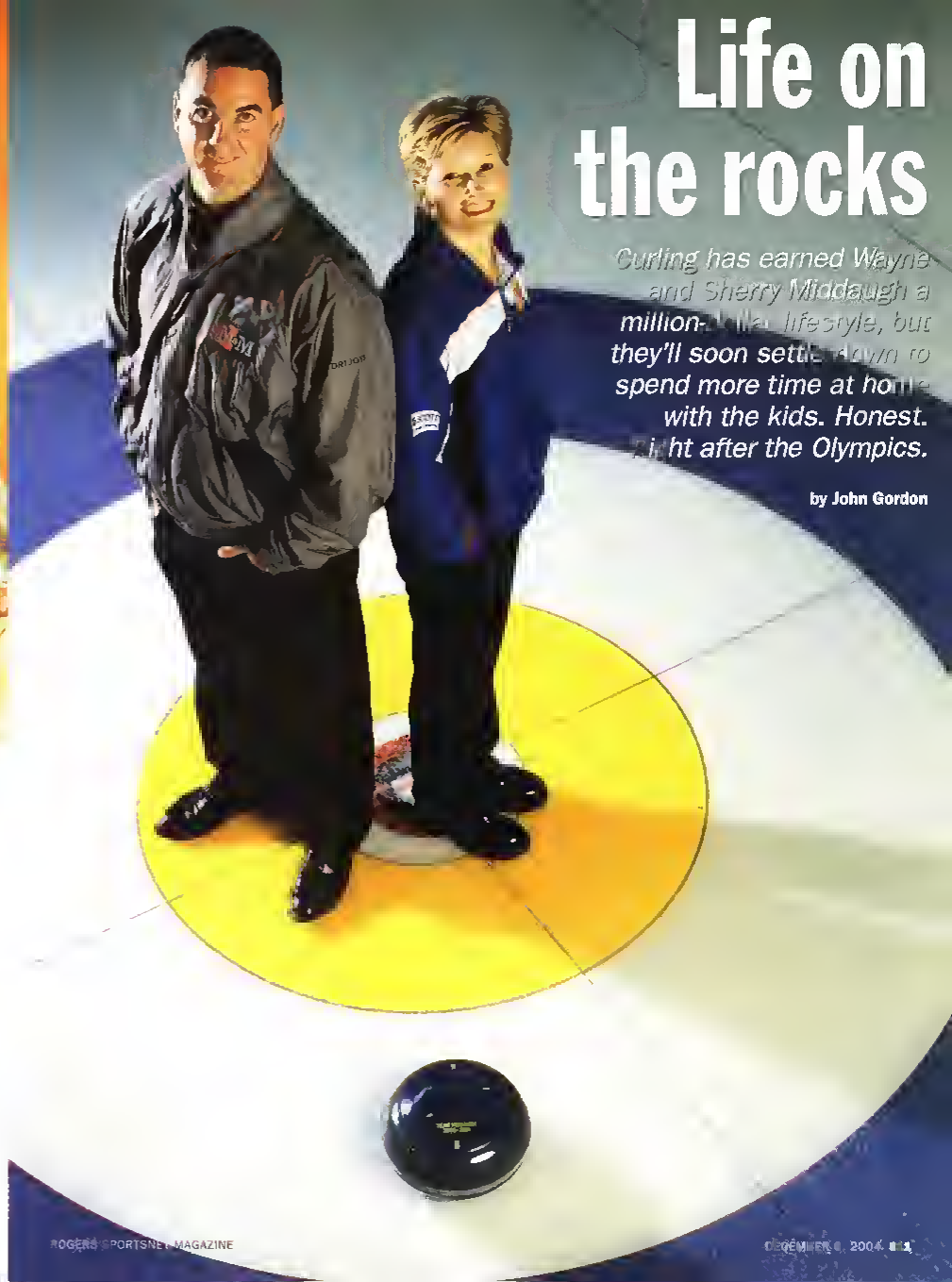
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Life on the rocks

Curling has earned Wayne and Sherry Middaugh a million-dollar lifestyle, but they'll soon settle down to spend more time at home with the kids. Honest. Right after the Olympics.

by John Gordon



FROM THE ROAD, THE HOUSE IS UNREMARKABLE. IT SITS ON A BACK street in the hamlet of Victoria Harbour, on the shore of Lake Huron's Georgian Bay and, at first glance, it's just another cottage. Not a lot of curb appeal.

But the late-model Cadillac STS, brand-new Infiniti G35, and Oldsmobile minivan hint that there might be more than the average amount of disposable income lying around.

Then there's the revolving front door.

OK, so there's not really a revolving front door, but there should be. In this house live Canada's most notable curling couple. And, occasionally, to the likely surprise of their family, friends and neighbours, both Wayne and Sherry Middaugh are there at the same time.

Even long-time curling analyst Bob Weeks marvels at their arrangement. "The question that I've never been able to figure out is how they manage to both compete at the highest level, year after year, with a young family. They both seem to be jetting off to bonspiels at opposite ends of the country all winter long. It's got to be an amazing juggling act, and I wonder when they ever see each other."

Like the people themselves, seemingly an average couple in their mid-30s with two young daughters, this house is not what it seems. A low-slung bungalow from the road, the cathedral-ceilinged glass-fronted interior faces one of the most spectacular bodies of water in the world.

A 24-foot cabin cruiser – the Out-turn Heater, named after Wayne's signature shot – and a Jet-Ski share dock space. You can see them from the hot tub on the sprawling deck, just beyond the houses towering glass windows.

> "It's not like going to Augusta for The Masters"

On a late fall day, the Middaughs spend a rare day at home together, one of few such occasions since they first hooked up nine years ago at a charity bonspiel in Thunder Bay, Ont. Shortly after that meeting, Sherry moved from her Saskatchewan birthplace to join Wayne.

"It was a good fit right from when we met," says Wayne, who has been the director of golf at the nearby Midland Golf and Country Club for eight years. "Sherry is a pretty good golfer, too, so we had that in common. In the [curling] off-season, she spent her summers at a cottage, so she wasn't uncomfortable living here and being on a boat, and that's how I grew up, too."

Curled up in an easy chair in the expansive family room, Sherry agrees that, apart from their sporting lives, their ideal lifestyles were compatible. "I'm from small-town Saskatchewan, so living up here seems quite comfortable," she says. "It wasn't like moving to Toronto, for example. This has been a very easy adjustment."

Other changes weren't quite so seamless. Wayne recalls the pre-family era when he worked as an assistant golf professional at St. George's Golf and Country Club in Toronto and then curled every weekend from the end of September until Christmas.

"I never missed a weekend," he recalls with a smile. "I absolutely loved it. Now I'm sick of the travel, and I want to be home more."

The Middaughs began to trim their travel schedules with the arrival of Kelly, who turned five in August. In Kelly's first few months, Sherry took her along to bonspiels. After that, the curling couple made sure at least one of them stayed home all the time. Emily came along two years ago, and the Middaughs had an even tougher time leaving home.

But leave home they must, especially Wayne. Unlike Sherry's rink, his has not secured a berth in the trials for the 2006 Winter Olympics. For her part, Sherry must keep playing to ensure her rink stays sharp and competitive. On the occasions when they must be away simultaneously, Wayne's parents move in and babysit.

"Our whole schedules are geared around the Olympic trials and the Olympics," Wayne says. "Unfortunately, those events are scheduled on the same weekends for the men and the women.

"My dad and mom basically said to us, 'We'll give you to the Olympics and that's it. We'll take care of the kids. You go away and curl. Give it 100 per cent, do everything you can to try to get there. But after that, that's it. We're not going to take care of your kids again for four days at a crack.'"

At the moment, those four days generally go like this, says Wayne: "Thursday night at 8, we'll jump on planes going in different directions. We'll play Friday, Saturday, Sunday and sometimes Monday and then come home. You're home Tuesday, Wednesday, and then Thursday night, you're back at the airport again."

"Just enough to unpack, do some laundry and do it all over again," says Sherry, who now dreads the monotonously similar hotel rooms and restaurant meals.

"It's not like going to Augusta for The Masters or going to the British Open in Scotland," notes Wayne. "It's generally small towns or cities, and you're going back and forth from the hotel to the curling club, and it's usually the same small towns. I've been 10 times to Florenceville, for example." His facial expression clearly indicates that Florenceville, N.B., has little in common with Florence, Italy, which, at last check, consisted of considerably more than a McCain's plant and a curling rink.

For all the monotony and sacrifice, the financial rewards have been significant. Last year, Wayne's rink divided $200 000 in tax-free winnings, Sherry's about half of that. M&M Meat Shops, their major sponsor, covers their expenses.

But their friends and neighbours in Midland can soon expect to see more of the Middaugh family once their Olympic quest ends. Increasingly, Wayne and Sherry regret that they can't immerse themselves in the recreational nirvana they call home. Like all parents, they want to watch their daughters grow up.

"We wouldn't trade this lifestyle for anything. Not anything," says Wayne. "We're finding we'd rather be home with our kids. We're getting tired of the travel. It's exhausting. If I could curl at Coldwater [a nearby club], I'd curl every day. I love the game, but it's getting to be too much.

"This is what we do for fun. The fact that we make a few bucks from it is a bonus. It looks great on paper, believe me. Tell people you're a golf pro, and they think you play all day, give a few lessons, have dinner at the club and then go home. Same thing with curling. They say, 'Oh, yeah, you get to play in Vegas and all over the place.' They pay you hundreds of thousands of dollars. What a life.' Except it's not like that at all.

"Every job, everybody else's life, you always think the grass is greener. That's just not the way it is. We're just very fortunate that we both love what we do.

"If we can win and play well, we can win a bit of extra money, but we're not ever going to win a million dollars."

That doesn't seem to matter. For Wayne and Sherry Middaugh, the million dollar lifestyle will have to suffice.

Rogers Sportsnet golf analyst John Gordon is a member at Midland G&CC



Love in the house. After all the records have been broken and the trophies have been won, Wayne and Sherry Middaugh just want to stay home.

WAYNE'S WORLD

Wayne Middaugh is the only skip ever to have back-to-back 100% games. Other highlights of his curling career include:

1-TIME:
M & M Meat Shops Grand Slam Champion
Canadian Open Grand Slam Champion

2-TIME:
Ontario, Canadian & World Champion
Canadian Olympic Trials competitor

5-TIME:
World Curling Tour Players Champion
First-team Brier All-star

6-TIME:
Provincial Men's Champion

7-TIME:
McCain/TSN Skins Champion

SHERRY'S WORLD

Sherry Middaugh has won more money than any other skip in women's curling every year since 1997. Among her other accomplishments:

1-TIME:
All-Star skip
Team North America member, Continental Cup

2-TIME:
Winner, TSN/JVC Women's Skins Game

3-TIME:
Canadian Olympic Trials competitor Bronze medallist, Scott Tournament of Hearts



ROGERS sportsnet Magazine
WORLD CURLING TOUR
M&M MASTERS OF CURLING
December 12 – 13, 2004

The other great one

Everyone else wonders what might have happened to this teen-aged superstar, who scored more goals as a teenager in the NHL than Wayne Gretzky, if the hockey gods had smiled on him a bit longer. But he doesn't.

by Scott Burnside

Only two players under the age of 20 have scored 50 goals in a single NHL season. Wayne Gretzky is one. Who's the other?

Answer: Jimmy Carson.

A second generation Greek American, Carson, whose grandfather changed his name in the 1920s to avoid persecution, grew up around Detroit's fabled Olympia Stadium, where his grandfather ran a restaurant and both his grandfather and father operated parking lots.

"I would go down there with [my dad] on every game day, just about," Carson recalls. Sometimes he would watch the Red Wings from the lap of the wife of Detroit's future Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne.

After playing hockey and attending hockey schools around Detroit, Carson left home at 16 and spent two years with the Verdun Junior Canadiens in the Quebec major junior league, where he wracked up 269 points in two seasons.

By 1986, Carson had become one of the top-rated offensive American prospects of his time. At 18, he joined the Los Angeles Kings, along with future stars like Luc Robitaille and Steve Duchesne.

Carson recorded 79 points as a rookie, then became only the second teenager in NHL history to notch 50 or more goals, scoring 55 times and registering 107 points in his second year.

> "There was a lot of hoopla."

Robitaille calls Carson one of the best pure goal scorers he's ever seen. If the hockey gods hadn't intervened, Carson's career might have followed a much different trajectory.

Even in his early days, though, Carson had one eye on the future. "He was already different," says Robitaille. Still a close friend, Robitaille recalls visiting the Carson home in suburban Detroit during their rookie year with the Kings. Carson showed Robitaille his stock portfolio, which he'd hand-written on a sheet of paper. "He was getting ready for his after-career when he was 18," says Robitaille.

The paths of Carson and Gretzky intersected in the summer of 1988, when the Kings sent Carson to the Oilers along with Marun Gelinas, three draft picks and $10 million in return for Gretzky. Mike Krushelnyski and Marty McSorley Canadians reeled at the news. Politicians in Ottawa condemned the deal. Oilers owner Peter Pocklington was hung in effigy.

Then 19, Carson scored 49 goals and 100 points in his first year in Edmonton. But the Oilers blew a 3-1 first-round series lead to Gretzky and the Kings, and the young American became a lightning rod for fan discontent.

Early in the 1989-90 season, Carson couldn't overcome the relentless pressure. Unable to prepare himself mentally for his team's games, he "retired." Oilers general manager Glen Sather briefly suspended him, then traded him to Detroit.

"There was a lot of hoopla," recalls Carson, who was returning to his home town.

But he was playing centre behind Steve Yzerman and a young Sergei Fedorov. He no longer occupied a spot on the power play. Injuries to his knee and shoulder didn't help. And, although he averaged 25 goals a season for four years in Detroit, his numbers never matched his fans' expectations. Even when he scored 34 goals in 1991-1992, fans wondered why he hadn't scored 50.



A KING NO MORE

At Oiler at 19, Jimmy Carson scored 49 goals and 100 points in his first year in Edmonton. But when the Oilers lost to Gretzky and the Kings in the first round of the playoffs, Edmonton fans blamed him. Next season, he was gone.

© BENNETT / NHLI VIA GETTY IMAGES

Two-thirds of the way through the 1992-1993 season, the Red Wings traded Carson back to Los Angeles in return for Paul Coffey.

Carson rattled around for a few more years, moving to the Vancouver Canucks, then to Hartford to play for the Whalers. After a year in Switzerland, he returned to play his last 11 NHL games with Hartford. A year later, in 1996, he joined the hometown Detroit Vipers of the International Hockey League and the next year won the championship that had eluded him as an NHLer, when the Vipers captured the 1997 Turner Cup.

"He was a really great person on and off the ice," recalls Vipers coach Steve Ludzik. "He always showed up in a suit, even for a long road trip. He was the guy that picked out the wine at dinner. We used to call him the Golden Greek."

Before his NHL career ended, Carson began studying accounting and finance in the off-season, planning for life after hockey. "I think Jimmy always knew there was more to the game than the game," Robitaille says.

Carson now works for Northwestern Mutual Insurance company as a financial advisor. Robitaille is one of his clients.

With three boys and another child on the way, the 36-year-old Carson's hockey universe now extends no farther than the suburban Detroit rink where his eight-year old, Charlie, plays a couple of times a week.

For a former teen-aged superstar who shares a goal-scoring record with Wayne Gretzky, Carson maintains a surprisingly level-headed demeanour. "A lot of guys have a tough transition," he says of his former NHL colleagues. "Maybe I just planned for it."

Scott Burnside is the Senior Writer for Sportsnet Magazine.

A TALE OF TWO SEASONS



© BENNETT / GETTY IMAGES

Jimmy Carson and Wayne Gretzky share an NHL record as the only two players to score more than 50 goals in a season before they turned 20. Gretzky did it in his first NHL season. (He'd played the year before for Edmonton in the WHA and turned 20 in January, 1981.) Here's how their first two NHL seasons compare.

Jimmy Carson, Los Angeles Kings

	GP	G	A	Pts
1986-87	80	37	42	79
1987-88	80	55	52	107

Wayne Gretzky, Edmonton Oilers

	GP	G	A	Pts
1979-80	79	51	86	137
1980-81	80	55	109	164



Technology
BRUCE McDOUGALL

Bigger, better, broader: What's up with HDTV?

The son of my friend Big Bob plays basketball for the Rhode Island Rams in the NCAA's Atlantic Ten. Big Bob tries to drive from Toronto to his son's games, but if he can't, he watches his son play on TV.



PHOTO BY JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Unfortunately, like the average suburban bungalow, a standard TV screen just isn't big enough to accommodate both ends of a seven-foot teenager, so Big Bob can seldom see his son's head and feet at the same time. It's even worse for me. When I watch a game with Big Bob, sometimes I can't even tell his son from the other players on the team, and I often end up with my proverbial foot in my mouth. Sometimes I can't even tell one team from another, especially if both teams wear blue and white uniforms. In fact, after a few beers, sometimes I can hardly recognize Big Bob.

Recently, everything changed, but the beer when Big Bob bought himself a High Definition TV. HDTV delivers a wider picture, so you can see more of the court during a basketball game or more of the diamond during a baseball game. "It's a huge step forward," says Doug Beeforth, President of *Sportsnet*, which broadcast more than 20 baseball games this year in HDTV format. With a conventional TV, a viewer may watch the catcher, the pitcher and the batter during a sequence. With HDTV, says Beeforth, the viewer can see the catcher, pitcher and batter, as well as the first baseman. That's about as much as you can see with your own two eyes if you're sitting in the stands.

Of equal value, Beeforth says, HDTV technology increases, by a factor of five, the clarity of the picture on the screen. On a standard TV, Big Bob has a hard time seeing his son's black eye. On an HDTV, he not only sees the shiner, he can also see from the way he grits his teeth that his son intends to do something about it.

"HDTV captures the passion," Beeforth says. "You can see the tension on a pitcher's face or the one thousand butterflies in the coach's stomach."

At the moment, not all HDTVs are created equal. Some are HDTV-compatible, which means you need an external tuner to watch HDTV programming via cable or satellite. Others integrate the tuner into the set. Either way, you have to subscribe through your cable or satellite company to an HDTV service.

Earlier this year, U.S. authorities told manufacturers to start building the tuners into at least some of their HDTVs. That means that, in a couple of years, all HDTVs will be integrated, this column will be irrelevant and Celine Dion will have earned another fortune wailing about airplanes.

In Canada, fewer than 10% of cable and satellite viewers currently subscribe to HDTV. But this too will change as HDTV programming becomes more widely available and the price of HDTVs comes down. In the U.S., according to the *Financial Times*, one-third of households will have HDTVs by the end of the decade. "We already sell lots of them," says John Bate, a sales associate at Bay Bloor Radio in Toronto, "starting around $1,200."

In the meantime, broadcasters have started to invest heavily in HDTV technology, and it's not cheap. An HDTV sports broadcast requires a revamped mobile truck, upgraded cameras and compatible interior electronics just to get the picture from the stadium to the central broadcast facility. The broadcaster then has to process and transmit the HDTV signal to the viewer.

It's worth the investment, though. But don't take my word for it. With HDTV, seeing is believing. "Once you've seen it," says Beeforth, "you're a convert for life." In fact, Beeforth's three sons, aged 14 to 21, now get upset at their father when a sports program is not broadcast in HDTV.

My friend Big Bob certainly likes watching basketball on HDTV, and so do I. For one thing, Big Bob can see his son more clearly, even if he still can't see his son's feet.

As for me, I can recognize his son on the screen, and keep my own feet out of my mouth, where they don't belong.

Bruce McDougall is Managing Editor of Sportsnet Magazine

HOW TO GIVE EVERYONE THE

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CANADIAN TIRE

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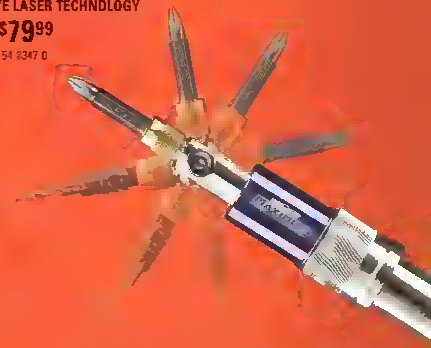
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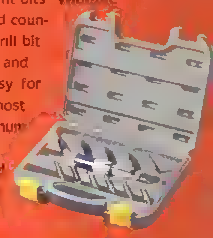


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CANADIAN TIRE

Let's get started



Game Over
ANDY JUNIPER

The online selling of old socks and Bonds and how athletes use the Internet to get warm and Fozzy.

Critics often suggest that overpaid, over protected, pampered professional athletes are not living in the real world. A virtual visit to some of their official homes on the Internet confirms that some of these guys have taken up residence in Fantasy Land.



TRACY WOOD / REACTOR

Not surprisingly, professional athletes are taking to the web the way that Miami Heat centre Shaquille O'Neal takes to a rebound or a post-game buffet or an opportunity to bash Kobe Bryant – with gusto.

On the web, an athlete can avoid the often embarrassing glare of scrutiny (a.k.a. the media and its confounded search for the truth and/or scandal). The egocentric jock can better create the all-world, squeaky-clean image of his choice. All the better for marketability, you see.

On the Internet, you can meet San Francisco Giant superslugger Barry Bonds at barrybonds.com. Say hello to Barry. Read that Barry is "very happy" to have started his own website because it has given him a chance to "get closer to my fans." And their wallets. At barrybonds.com, everything is for sale. "Get your piece of history!"

In the real world, Bonds has a reputation for being aloof, arrogant and downright cantankerous. He's been known to disrespect teammates and treat journalists with disdain. Oh, and he's at the centre of an ongoing controversy that suggests part of his prodigious pop at the plate comes from pharmaceuticals. But at barrybonds.com, visitors find none of this. No, at barrybonds.com we see Barry being benevolent, Barry as a baby (in photographs!). Barry being about as prickly as, well, Fozzy Bear. Fozzy Barry?

Athletes and their avaricious agents understand that the Internet is all about commerce (and helping men with erectile dysfunction). They have not failed to notice that if you make a meagre $15 million per year, and then you sell one of your used athletic supporters autographed, on your official site for $100, you then have, well, more money.

Basketball superstar Vince Carter has created an alternative universe of his own. Remember when The Good Ship Vince was being buffeted by trade winds after he'd stated publicly that he wanted to sail out of Toronto? At the time, his website spoke nary a word about the controversy, but rather waxed eloquent about his wedding. Hoop fans around the world must have felt relieved to learn that "The bride was breathtaking in a Jenny Couture champagne silk crepe empire waist sheath with French Lace overlay."

You don't have to play basketball to create your own electronic world. Six-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong bills his site as "your portal to everything Lance." Everything, that is, except for the fact that the super-cyclist abandoned his wife and young family in favour of rocker Sheryl Crow. Oh, and that his stature is constantly being crapped upon by pigeons of doubt squawking about things such as blood doping. Not mentioning these facts does not make them disappear. In fact, a few words from Armstrong to explain his actions might even underscore his alleged innocence of all the dastardly deeds that his website doesn't mention.

In the cyberworld of pro football, RayLewis52.com similarly distorts the picture. The website's bio of the brilliant Baltimore Raven linebacker covers everything from his birth to his days at the University of Miami to his rookie National Football League season and on to being crowned 2001 Super Bowl MVP. But the whole exhaustive bio contains not a word about his infamous 2000 murder charge, which evolved after a plea bargain into a misdemeanour charge of obstruction of justice.

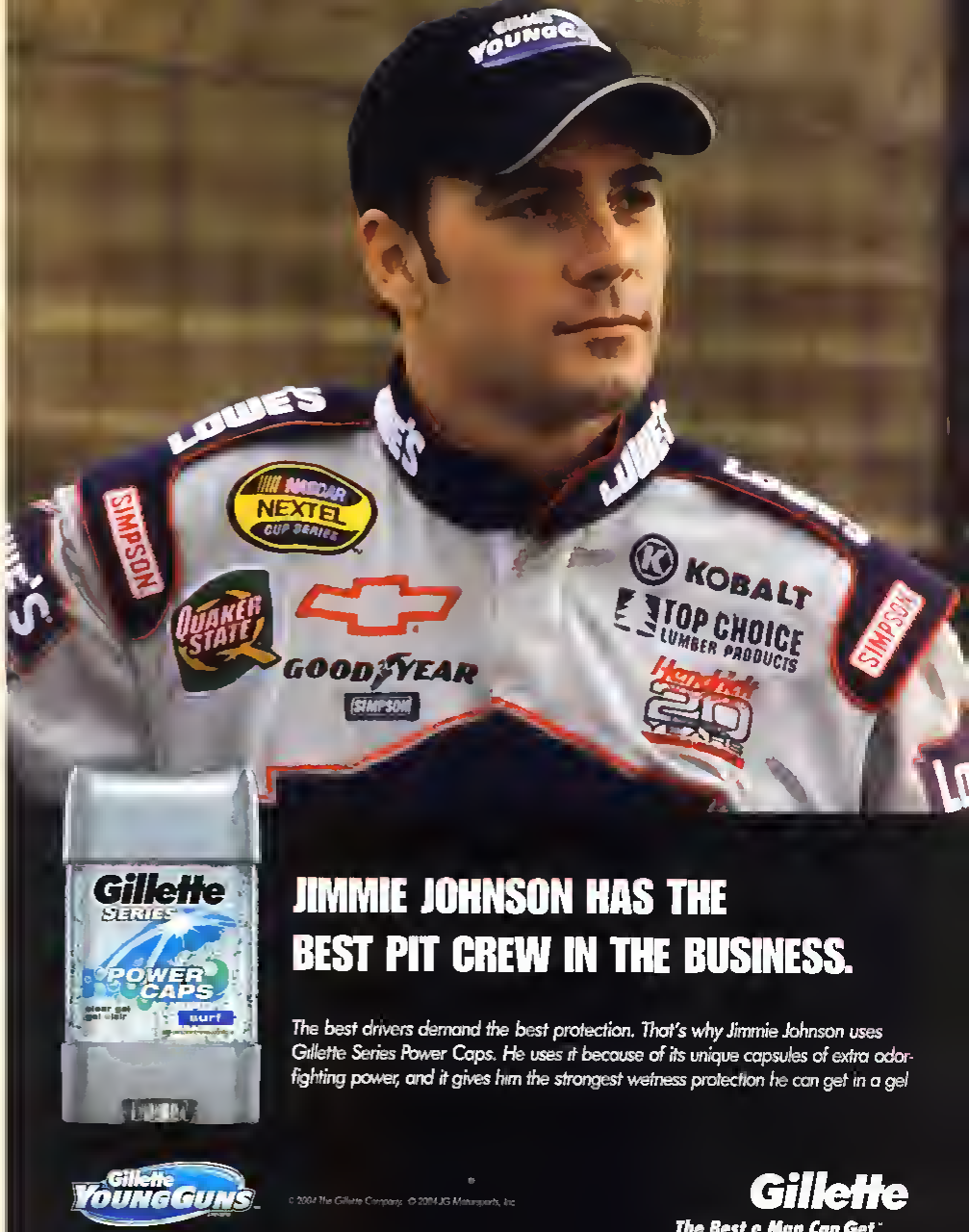
Spin, spin, spin. A visitor to cyberspatial professional sports could get dizzy just trying to keep up with the spin.

Sometimes pro athletes spin right off the radar screen. A web surfer trying to get the dope on Ricky Williams' erstwhile Miami Dolphin running back and premature retiree, for example, will look in vain for Williams's official website. Like Ricky himself, the site is no longer up and running. It was abandoned right after the dreadlocked backfielder was busted, again, by the NFL for using marijuana.

Not all pro athletes' URLs make visitors want to hurl. Like the athletes themselves, some of their websites are genuine, entertaining, informative, intelligent, creative and caring. Some athletes even use their sites to support worthy causes and charities.

In fact, not all pro athletes even have websites. Nor do they feel the need for greed or the urge to blog. Which only goes to show that, while some pro athletes are as spaced in cyberspace as they are here on earth, others remain laudably grounded.

Andy Juniper is a regular contributor to sportsnet.ca. He can be visited at his website through www.sportsnet.ca or contacted at ajuniper@strangledeggs.com



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THE SORE WINNER

Out of sorts, King Ralph still won the election. Is he ready to step down?

The King is dead. Long live the King!

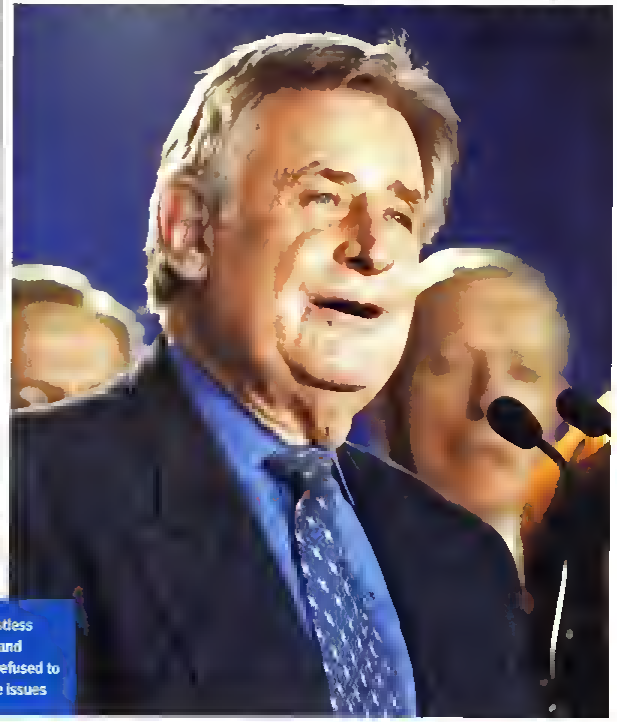
FOR SOME REASON, this phrase came to mind as I contemplated the results of last week's Alberta election. Ralph Klein—long ago dubbed King Ralph because he's always triumphed during 25 years in politics—is, of course, far from dead. The Conservative party romped to its 10th consecutive majority government, and its fourth under Klein's leadership. But even as he savoured victory, there were portents that King Ralph is entering what could be a prolonged political death spiral. The resurgent opposition forces more than doubled their seat count, while the Tories' popular vote shrunk from 62 per cent in 2001 to 47 per cent. For the first time in nine civic and provincial elections, the former Calgary mayor failed to increase his margin of victory.

Far more troubling are the signs of discontent in Tory ranks. In Klein's home riding of Calgary-Elbow, Liberal candidate Stephen Brown, a political nobody, grabbed over a third of the popular vote. And in the key battleground of Edmonton, Tory candidates were heard assuring voters that Klein, 62, would be gone in less than a year—an unthinkable treason even a few months ago.

How did it come to this? In truth, the normally cheerful Klein has been out of sorts lately. He ran a listless, don't-worry-be-happy campaign and pointedly refused to discuss any hot-button issues, such as health care. Even on election night he seemed, well, bored by it all. Asked to describe his mandate, Klein replied, "It's to do what the bosses [the voters] want you to do."

Having promised nothing, Klein now has a free hand. Many still believe he'll retire—or be pushed out by ambitious leadership aspirants—within 18 months. Yet the premier insists he'll serve his full term (in one of those bizarre Klein gestures, he even signed a pledge to that effect in a reporter's notebook during the campaign). Klein's appointment last week of Rod Love as his chief of staff may or may not signal he's serious about staying. Love, who held the same position from 1992 to 1998, was one of the architects of the Klein budget-cutting revolution. He's a straight-shooter who relishes a good fight and might be just the man to push through oft-promised health-care reforms, including greater privatization and possible challenges to the Canada Health Act. But Love is also a key supporter of one of Klein's would-be successors, former Alberta treasurer Jim Dinning. And on election night, Love was one of many predicting Klein would be gone by 2006.

In any event, expect Klein to continue to be a disruptive force on the federal scene. He may have been lukewarm about calling the special election that last week saw four "senators-in-waiting" selected from among 10 candidates. But watch Klein howl as Paul Martin declines to appoint them to the Red Chamber. There is no love lost between the premier and the PM. And as long as King Ralph remains on his throne, he will spare no opportunity to upstage Martin. M



He ran a listless campaign and pointedly refused to discuss the issues

FRANK GUNN/CP

HOPE IN DARFUR

The situation may have improved, but much more needs to be done, writes DR. ERIC HOSKINS



Last week, Prime Minister Paul Martin visited Sudan in a bid to help end the bloody civil war that has ravaged the western part of that country, killing as many as 100,000 civilians and forcing nearly two million more from their homes. Dr. **Eric Hoskins**, *an expert on the impact of war on children, previously lived in Sudan for three years. He recently returned from Darfur and filed this report for* Maclean's.

HAJI MOHAMMED, 36, sits cross-legged on the dirt floor of her new "home"—a stick and cardboard lean-to just four feet high with barely enough room to lie down. She lives here with her five children and her 85-year old father. Haji's family fled their village 10 months ago when armed pro-government ethnic militias, known as the Janjaweed, murdered her husband and burned their home. "We used to have a beautiful farm," Haji says, "with fruits and vegetables and horses. Then one night the Janjaweed came to our village, carrying guns. They caught my husband and shot him dead, along with many other men. They let the girls escape, but the young boys were burned to death." Haji fled the village with her children, escaping to a displaced persons' camp that is now home to nearly 10,000 people.

Haji's story is just one of thousands. Women have been systematically raped, men killed and children abducted, while thousands more have died from illness and malnutrition. The World Health Organization estimates that 10,000 people a month are dying in Darfur, while nearly two million have been forced from their homes and a further 200,000 have fled to neighbouring Chad.

Sudan is already reeling from a 20-year-old war between the north and the south that has cost an estimated two million lives. It is hard to imagine that things could get any worse for Africa's largest country. Yet not only is the Darfur conflict, according to the United Nations, "one of the world's worst humanitarian crises," it also threatens to derail a fragile peace process between the Sudanese government and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

What started as a rebel uprising in Darfur has turned into a slaughter of innocents. In early 2003, the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, rebel groups based in Darfur, intensified their struggle against the central government, accusing it of decades of neglect and oppression. The government responded by launching fierce attacks and unleashing the Janjaweed. While all sides are guilty of unspeakable human rights violations, the Janjaweed and government forces are accused of the worst atrocities. According to a Nov. 15 report by Human Rights Watch, government forces and the Janjaweed have "systematically targeted civilian communities that share the same ethnicity as the rebel groups, killing, looting, raping, forcibly displacing and destroying hundreds of villages."

It wasn't until after a ceasefire in April that humanitarian organizations were finally able to begin delivering relief supplies. Now, despite regular violations of the ceasefire—last week, the World Food Program (WFP) suspended operations in north Darfur because of renewed clashes between rebels and government forces—overall fighting has decreased, although some believe this is merely because the desired ethnic cleansing is nearing completion. The UN now estimates that more than 80 per cent of the affected civilian population is reachable, compared to only 13 per cent in January. According to the WFP, roughly 70 per cent of the displaced population's food needs are likely being met, and malnutrition rates have stabilized. There are now more than 6,000 humanitarian workers providing assistance in Darfur—800 of them foreign staff.

But while there is no doubting the success of the humanitarian response, it remains insufficient, precarious and highly vulnerable. Security for aid agencies has worsened in recent weeks—two relief workers were killed by land mines in October—while attacks on aid convoys and renewed fighting have put hundreds of thousands of vulnerable civilians once again out of reach. Despite the overall improvement, it remains unsafe for civilians to return to unprotected villages, with the Janjaweed still unrestrained. As a result, there is concern that families will not be able to prepare for the next planting season. If this happens, shortages will worsen and the number of civilians requiring food aid will increase dramatically.



Gathering aid at the el-Sereif refugee camp, abandoned village in north Darfur (above)

Against such a backdrop, many aid workers are reluctant to publicly acknowledge that things may have gotten better—for fear that the international community will lose interest and turn its attention elsewhere. David Del Conte, the UN humanitarian affairs officer in El Geneina in western Darfur, puts it this way. "The situation since June has changed dramatically—we cannot say that it has resolved, but we are seeing basic services available to the population, and we are seeing people survive. But it's not over yet. Our level of involvement cannot decrease. Our level of assistance cannot decrease—or else things will get worse again quickly." And then he emphasizes, "Make sure it is clear that there are large areas of Darfur that remain insecure and that people aren't receiving adequate support."

This points to the real problem in Darfur: the near-total lack of security. Outside of the displaced persons' camps, there is virtually no protection for the civilian population. And even in the camps themselves, where 80 per cent of the residents are women, children and the elderly, security is often absent. Nightly raids by the militias continue to terrorize civilians. The police offer little or no protection, are not trusted, and frequently harass camp residents. Women who go out in search of firewood are raped and beaten by roving bands. In some cases, families have started sending elderly women out to gather firewood, because they are less likely to fall victim to sexual violence. Canadian Louise Arbour, currently the UN's high commissioner for human rights and former chief prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, refers to the displaced camps as "prisons without walls."

For 50-year old Mohammed Ibrahim, there has been no measurable improvement in security since the night one year ago when the Janjaweed set fire to his house and he fled

FINBARR O'REILLY/REUTERS, JOSE CENDON/AP

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to a camp near the border with Chad. "Just the night before," he says, "the Janjaweed attacked the camp and killed two people. They speak there [in peace talks], while they kill us here. They speak about peace, but it is all lies and they keep killing." Mohammed is referring to the African Union-brokered negotiations that recently concluded in Abuja, Nigeria. On Nov. 10, the rebels and the government re-committed themselves to the April ceasefire, established a military no-fly zone over Darfur, and agreed to provide "unimpeded access for humanitarian workers." Khartoum also agreed to "implement its commitment to neutralize and disarm the Janjaweed and other armed militias."

Whether these commitments will be honoured remains to be seen. Since earlier this year, the Sudanese government has come under increased pressure to put a stop to the fighting, rein in the militias, and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. The UN Security Council has threatened sanctions if Khartoum continues to drag its feet. After the United States declared in September that crimes in Darfur constituted genocide, the UN launched a commission of inquiry to determine whether acts of genocide had in fact occurred and to identify those guilty of human rights violations, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. Meanwhile, though, horrific human rights violations continue—even as many wonder why the international community hasn't done more to end the abuses and restore calm.

KHARTOUM has agreed to disarm the militias. Whether such promises will be honoured remains to be seen.

THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT has agreed to the deployment of more than 3,000 African Union peacekeepers. However, their deployment has been slow, mainly because the Nigerian and Rwandan forces lack the transport, equipment and expertise needed for their effective mobilization. The U.S., Canada and the European Union have stepped in to offer logistical, material and financial support. There are now approximately 750 African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, but this represents only one peacekeeper per 2,666 displaced civilians. More worrisome, the peacekeepers are limited in their mandate and can only protect civilians facing "imminent threat." Given the vastness of Darfur, even full deployment of the intended number of peacekeepers will mean only one peacekeeper for every 100 sq. km of terrain.

On Nov. 18, the UN Security Council met in Nairobi—only its fourth official meeting ever outside New York City—to discuss the situation in Sudan. Paul Martin's visit to Sudan last week, meanwhile, was the first ever to that country by a Canadian prime minister. Martin's commitment to civilians caught in conflict made headlines in September when the Prime Minister spoke to the UN General Assembly. Described as the "Responsibility to Protect" policy—with specific reference to Sudan—it sought to catalyze greater international action on Darfur. In Khartoum last week, the PM had another chance, calling on everyone involved in the conflict to "respect international humanitarian law and human rights," and pledging a further $2.5 million in aid.

That brings to $40 million the amount Canada has committed to humanitarian relief in Sudan over the past year. Some $20 million of that is to support the deployment of African Union peacekeepers in Darfur. But although Ottawa is clearly on the right track, there is much more that must be done. We can provide personnel—military, police and judicial—to further train and support African Union peacekeepers. We need to support a stronger mandate for, and larger deployment of, African Union and UN peacekeepers, including Canadians—with full protection of civilians the central aim. We must further pressure Khartoum to disarm and disband the Janjaweed and other militias, and we must bring to justice the perpetrators of human rights violations in Darfur. We should also actively lobby like-minded countries to support UN and African efforts to bring about an end to the conflict, while continuing vigorous support for the north-south peace process.

Canada has a unique opportunity to demonstrate our genuine commitment to the people of Sudan and the citizens of Darfur, and to strengthen the capacity of the African Union to effectively resolve conflict and protect Africans. In doing so we provide a vital and tangible example of what "Responsibility to Protect" can really mean. M

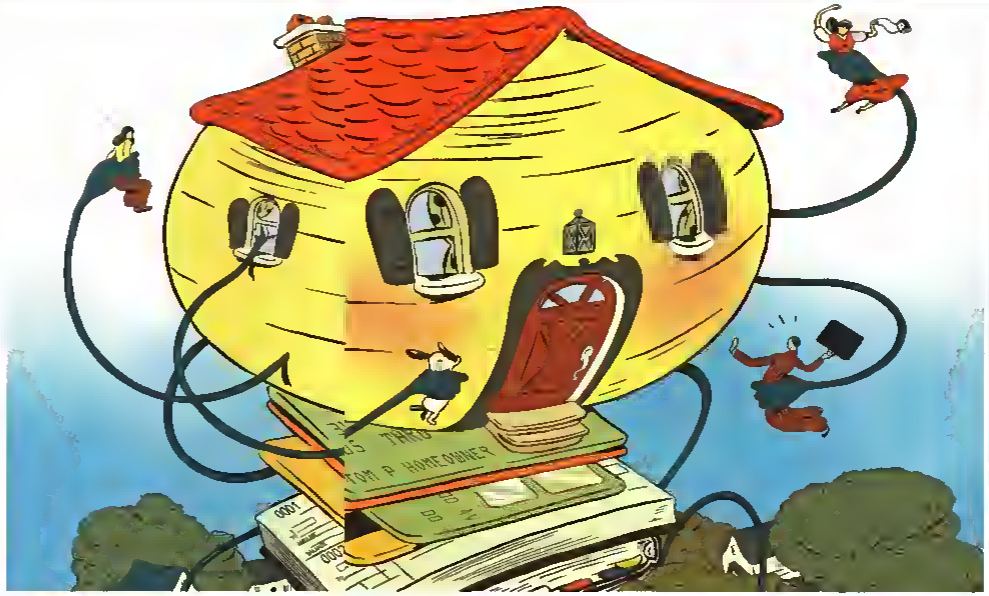
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HIP DEEP IN HOCK

Interest rates are rising—and so are stress levels among debt-laden consumers

RUSSELL KENT learned earlier than most about the allure and the pitfalls of credit—he was 14 when his father gave him his first credit card. Each month the bill would appear on the corner of his dad's desk, Kent was expected to attach receipts for purchases he'd made during the month, and the cash to pay for them. "If the receipts or the money weren't there, my dad would freak out," recalls Kent, 32, who requested his name be changed for this story. "If the bill was for $19.78 and I clipped a $20, the next day there would be 22 cents on my dresser." His father's message was stern and unequivocal: don't buy anything you don't have the cash to pay for.

It's a philosophy Canadians lived by for generations, but these days it's not an easy mantra to follow. As interest rates drifted to the lowest levels in decades, consumers responded by buying everything from homes and cottages to cars and appliances. The shopping spree has fed a healthy cycle of economic growth and a robust job market—but we've gone deep into hock to pay for the good times. With every drop in interest rates, the definition of living within one's means changed—*with financing like this, you too can afford a luxury condo!* The notion of buying only what you could easily pay for became a meaningless principle.

And so this summer Russell Kent and his wife, Mary, joined the legions of other young families in opting to ignore the admonitions they'd heard from their parents and take the plunge into homeownership. They bought a house in the suburbs north of Toronto—and in the process have run up their debts far above anything they'd ever imagined. The house cost more than the top amount they'd intended to spend. They had to drain much of their savings and load up on personal lines of credit to muster a 25 per cent down payment. In total, they now owe roughly $340,000, spread across a mortgage, three lines of credit and two credit cards. Every month, $920 goes to pay interest on the cards and bank lines, and another $1,460 toward the mortgage. Mary also spends $300 a month to lease her car. Debt payments eat up close to a third of their after-tax income. Russell says making ends meet over the next few years will be "like stretching a gnat's ass over a rain barrel."

If the Kents feel intimidated by the debt challenge ahead of them, they're not alone. Collectively, Canadian consumers now owe $752.1 billion, according to Bank of Canada, up 36 per cent in the past 10 years when adjusted for inflation. Over the same period, personal disposable income, or take-home pay, has risen 15 per cent. In other words, Canadians are piling on debt more than twice as fast as their income is growing.

While the debt surge has been mainly attributed to rock-bottom mortgage rates fuelling runaway house prices, the numbers suggest a stampede into real estate is only part of the story. At the end of 2003, Canadians held $517.7 billion in mortgages. That's the lion's share of all consumer debt, but as a percentage, housing debt represents a smaller portion than it did in 1995. Meanwhile, typically more expensive forms of borrowing, such as credit cards and personal credit lines, have become a much bigger pan of Canadians' debt burden.

All of this has been affordable because low interest rates have kept payments on our myriad loans in check. But rates are now on the rise, and there are serious questions about how soon Canadians will start to feel the squeeze of their debt-financed comforts and indulgences.

To some it seems we've lost the discipline of planning for a rainy day. "As a society we have become addicted to low interest rates," says Benjamin Tal, senior economist at CIBC World Markets in Toronto. "That means as consumers we're much more vulnerable to an economic shock, like a sudden rise in interest rates, a recession or a job loss. Many of us are now living paycheque to paycheque."

'WE HAVE become addicted to low interest rates. That means we're much more vulnerable to an economic shock.'

This vulnerability is best illustrated by the steady decline in the savings rate over the past two decades. In 1985, the average Canadian socked away 15.8 per cent of his take-home pay. It was that savings cushion that allowed this country to bounce back from economic disasters like the 1987 stock market crash and the 1990 collapse of the residential real estate market. A decade later, the savings rate had slipped to 9.2 per cent of after-tax income. By 2003, the average Canadian saved just 1.4 per cent of his pay.

There are lots of theories about the sociological impulses driving our love affair with credit and our ambivalence toward saving for tomorrow. Are they the logical extensions of our consumer culture? A timeless desire to keep up with the Joneses? Or is it just that the ideal of middle-class stability—a house, a car, kids—is moving further out of our financial reach? Mary Kent says she grew up wanting a house with a yard and trees—the kind of place she was raised and in which she could raise her own family. As she approached her 30s, she became willing to do whatever it took to achieve that goal. "When I walked into this house, I thought, 'I could be happy here forever,'" she says—and wanted it even if it meant stretching her resources to the limit.

But there are consequences to taking that kind of leap. Early this year, The Vanier Institute of the Family sounded the alarm with a report on the state of Canadian family finances, entitled "Living on the Edge." The study highlighted several worrying trends, such as a 20 per cent drop in average contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans between 1997 and 2002, and the fact that household spending continues to outpace income growth. "For far too many, the 'edge' is getting closer and closer," the report's author, Roger Sauvé, concluded. "A growing number will fall over the precipice when, and not if, interest rates begin to rise from their 40-year lows. Households need to rein in some of their spending, pay off some debt and build a bigger cushion against slower times. The time to act is now." The implication: Canada is facing nothing less than a crisis in financial planning.

For now, Sauvé's dire outlook puts him in the minority. Despite the sobering picture presented by the statistics, most economists reject any talk of a ticking debt bomb. Derek Holt, an economist at RBC Financial Group, says that fears over rising debt levels have been blown out of proportion, and that the stats underestimate consumers' ability to adjust to changing circumstances. In a March report, he sought to debunk several myths about household finances, including the notion that North Americans are taking on too much debt and saving too little.

Holt argues that the rising value of household assets—thanks especially to buoyant real estate prices—have largely offset ballooning debt in both Canada and the United States, the vast majority of borrowing has been plowed into tangible investments rather than simply blown on pricey restaurants and expensive clothing. As for the record-low savings rate, Holt contends that rising house prices, together with the appreciating value of investments in retirement plans, are a form of saving because they serve to grow people's nest eggs. Once you take into account this often overlooked fact, he says, Canadians come out looking in much better shape than his gloomier colleagues suggest.

Adrienne Warren, an economist with Scotiabank, agrees, and adds it's not debt size but debt affordability that is at issue. Back in 1995, interest costs ate up 9.2 per cent of the average person's annual take-home pay. Last year, those costs were down to just 7.7 per cent. As long as interest rates rise gradually, Canadians should be able to easily afford their current debts, Warren says.

But there is one key assumption that underlies the confident case outlined by Holt, Warren and others: they all project that economic growth, job creation and real estate prices will remain roughly as healthy as they've been recently, or that any changes will happen slowly. Not everyone is convinced. CIBC's Tal, for one, fears that because Canadians have piled up debt like never before, even small changes in the economy could hit them hard.

For example, many people have spent the

ILLUSTRATION BY JASON SCHNEIDER

past couple of years feeling wealthy thanks to those rising house prices and low financing rates. And when you feel rich, you tend to spend like you're rich. A good number have gone out and borrowed against their homes to renovate, or buy a cottage, or start a business. The trouble with this so-called "wealth effect" is that it can cut both ways. "Real estate prices can fall and you're still stuck with the debt," Tal says. Although he doesn't expect a sharp drop in the real estate market, a levelling off of prices could slow all that home equity borrowing, and leave people feeling nervous about their levels of debt, he says. That, in turn, could further constrain spending, reversing the cycle of economic growth.

Tal worries about the financial shocks that can strike without warning. Like hurricanes, they're hard to predict, yet they occur with regularity. And when consumers are building their financial plans, they'd do well to prepare for the unexpected.

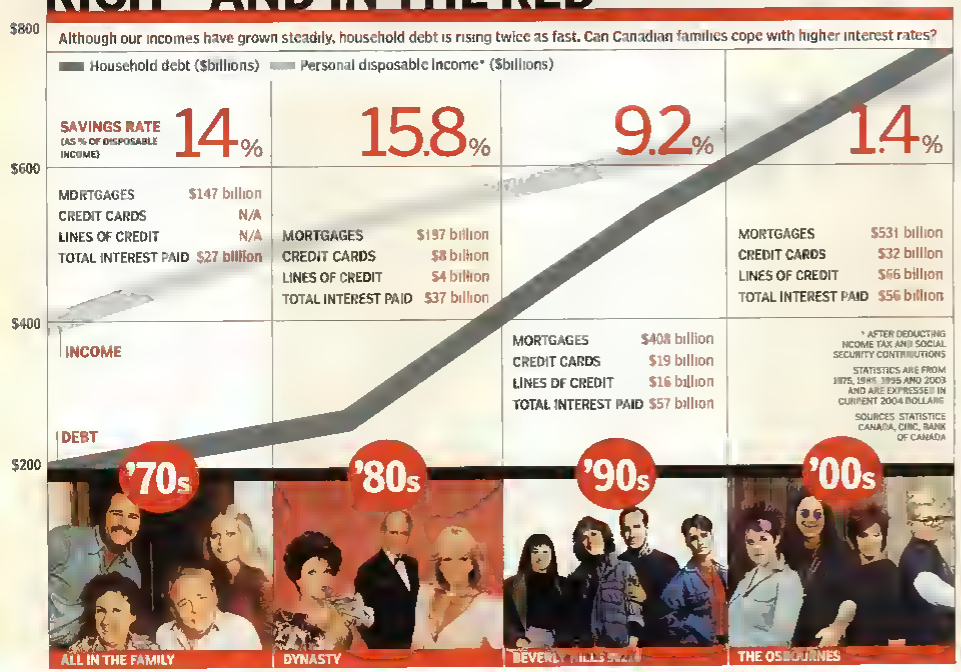
The economic storm winds haven't even begun to blow—growth remains healthy and interest rates are still relatively low despite recent hikes—and yet there are already signs that more Canadians than ever have pushed their borrowing beyond what's manageable. There were 84,297 personal bankruptcies in 2003, up 52 per cent from a decade earlier, and 2004 is on pace to break that record.

Given all that, it's no wonder people are growing concerned about what will happen when interest rates climb higher. Earlier this year, a Maritz Research poll for Manulife Financial found that almost three-quarters of those polled had made little or no progress paying down their debts in the previous year, and 68 per cent expressed concern over the impact that rising rates might have on their finances. Another poll conducted by CIBC in July suggested that if mortgage rates climb back to the 10-per-cent range seen in the mid-1990s, the majority of homeowners would be hard-pressed to keep up with their mortgage payments.

Most economists don't foresee a return to those interest rate levels in the near future, but it's a prospect that keeps at least some Canadians from sleeping well at night. Mary and Russell Kent can certainly identify with that worry. They have the house they always dreamed of. They both have steady, well paying jobs. And they have a solid plan to get out from under their debt. But when she looks at the mountain they have to climb, Mary admits she finds it daunting. "It's heavy-duty," she says. "I don't want to say it's unmanageable, because we're managing it and we're going to manage it. But it's heavy duty." Russell agrees, but tries to sound a reassuring note. "My focus for the next few years is debt reduction. First my credit card, then Mary's. Then my lines of credit, then Mary's. It's going to be tight—and it'll take two or three years to do it. But we will do it."

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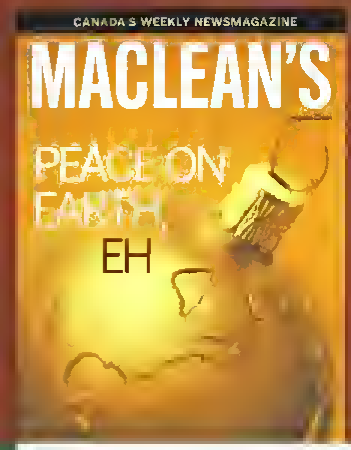
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ROGERS



A GUIDE TO GETTING FIRED

Michael Ovitz reveals the lucrative art of corporate self-immolation

ATTENTION EXECUTIVES. getting fired isn't as easy as you think. You're not an anonymous middle manager anymore. You can't count on a corporate downsizing or simple slacking off to trigger the fat severance clause in your contract. If you're itching to pull the rip cord on your golden parachute, you'll have to get creative. Because once you accept the keys to the executive washroom, just being bad at your job ceases to be a firing offence.

Of course, anybody can get axed if they *really* want to. You could always get charged with a crime. Accounting fraud appears to be the method of choice for professional suicide among today's discerning white-collar miscreants. But the trouble with fraud is that once you've paid your very expensive lawyers to deal with attorneys general, market regulators, class-action attack dogs and others trying to ruin your retirement party, you could end up losing your fortune.

That's probably not the kind of farewell you had in mind. What you need is a no-fault firing without cause—one of those precious departures that comes disguised as a resignation. You say that you want to spend more time with the family, your boss thanks you for years of outstanding service to the shareholders—and you walk away with the keys to a treasure chest filled with stock options, separation bonuses and other parting gifts that will ease your transition to a life of leisure.

Executives aspiring to lucrative unemployment should look for guidance and inspiration to Michael Ovitz, the former president of Walt Disney Co., whose termination stands as the gold standard of successful sackings. He was considered the most powerful man in Hollywood when he walked into the Magic Kingdom in 1995, and when he was escorted out 14 months later, he had a US$140-million severance deal in his pocket courtesy of Disney CEO Michael Eisner.

Details of the turbulent relationship between Ovitz and Eisner are currently being aired in a Delaware courtroom, where a group of irate Disney shareholders are demanding a refund of Ovitz's jaw-dropping windfall. They seem to think 140 million bucks was too generous for an executive who was a disaster by almost all accounts. But regardless of the suit's outcome, the case has already provided an illuminating look into what it takes to get sacked from a senior executive position at a major company.

It all started, as divorces so often do, with a clash of philosophies. Eisner hired Ovitz to be his No. 2, but they disagreed over strategy almost from day one. Eisner wanted discipline and efficiency. Ovitz suggested splashy takeovers. Eisner demanded cost cuts. Ovitz argued for spending increases. Within months, Eisner was suggesting to board members that his old pal Ovitz wasn't working out.

Ovitz also managed to thoroughly alienate his colleagues. Chief financial officer Steve Bollenbach and operations head Sandy Litvack flatly refused to report to him. At a company retreat, while other executives—including Eisner—rode in shuttle buses, Ovitz insisted on his own limo and driver. The fact that Ovitz charged US$4.8 million to his expense account—including US$68,000 to build a screening room at his home, according to an auditor's report—didn't endear him to his fellow execs.

THERE was nothing in his contract that said he had to be trustworthy, competent or sane in the eyes of his boss. So Ovitz walked away with a king's ransom.

When Eisner finally decided to dump his hand-picked lieutenant, Disney lawyers advised him that he had no legal grounds to do so. That must have come as a surprise to Eisner, who later described Ovitz in memos as "untrustworthy," "incompetent" and a "psychopath." But Ovitz's contract said the only things that could constitute cause for firing would be "gross negligence" or "malfeasance." There was nothing in his contract saying he had to be trustworthy, competent or sane in the eyes of his boss. So Ovitz got to walk away with a king's ransom.

This is not some isolated case. Almost all CEO contracts are structured to ensure a lucrative exit. Richard Grasso's multi-million-dollar package from the New York Stock Exchange grabbed headlines this year. And there have been many examples here in Canada, such as David Kassie's well-compensated departure from CIBC World Markets this year after a slew of embarrassing headlines and shaky results.

Earlier this year, researchers from Cornell and Vanderbilt law schools studied 356 CEO contracts and found that those fired without cause most often got two years' salary as severance. To give you an idea of how much money that is, the average CEO compensation for the 100 biggest U.S. companies was US$15.7 million in 2002.

The study also found that, as long as you show up for work and live within the law, you can look forward to a soft landing on a comfy pile of cash—regardless of whether you're any good at your job. Only 13 of the contracts examined listed incompetence as legitimate grounds for dismissal.

That, in turn, helps explain why Eisner, the guy who made the US$140 million mistake of hiring Ovitz, wasn't also fired. He just threw up his hands, said "mea culpa" and, eight years later, he's still the boss. That's the secret: if you want to keep your job, just keep saying sorry.

If you do want to get turfed, however, it is not enough merely to fail. You must alienate, irritate and obfuscate. Follow these steps and maybe, just maybe, you'll end up as rich as Michael Ovitz. Nobody said life in the executive suite would be easy. M

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JUST SAY 'NO'

Canadian political leaders should have the courage to stand up to the U.S.

Michael Ignatieff, the Canadian award-winning broadcaster, author and expert on nationalism who teaches human rights at Harvard University, caused a stir last year when he supported the American led invasion of Iraq. Ignatieff backed the war partly because he felt the United States, as a global empire, could use its strength to achieve positive change. Recently, he spoke in Toronto as the second of four speakers in the Grano lecture series on the potential and limits of American power. An excerpt:

GOOD HISTORIANS have pointed out that an empire means the colonial acquisition and management and administration of real estate. So I begin with a kind of apology. America is *not* an empire, because it does not have colonies in any traditional obvious sense, not even in Iraq. It doesn't have satrapies. Canada is a sovereign independent nation with the capacity to say "no." It's an ally, not a satrapy.

The best that you can say is that we're talking about primacy. The United States has obvious military preponderance. But notice that preponderance does not produce hegemonic power. This is a country using Abrams tanks to smash an insurgency in Falluja—and everybody knows that's like picking up mercury with a spoon.

'The U.S. is using Abrams tanks in Falluja—that's like picking up mercury with a spoon'

The critical issue with America is the legitimacy gap in the exercise of its power. It has got force. It has got power. It does not have authority—and you only have authority if you have legitimacy. And to an absolutely astounding degree, to a much greater degree than at any time in my lifetime, with the possible exception of Vietnam, American power appears to be illegitimate and, therefore, appears to the world simply as naked force.

One source of legitimacy for American power after 1945 was the presence of what we now see, I think very clearly, as an evil empire. What legitimized American power for 50 years was a system that, whatever else you thought about the States, was considerably worse. A system of tyranny, a release from which is one of the great achievements of the 20th century and also one of the greatest achievements of American power.

We are now looking at the gradual emergence of Europe as a counter power to the United States. That's not necessarily a bad thing. It's not good to have too much American power in the world.

The other big source of counter power in the world is Islam. For 25 years now, since the Iranian embassy siege of 1979, Islam has been on the attack against American power. And it's anything but clear that American victory in that battle is assured.

Another source of counter power to the U.S. is international law. Canada has been among those countries that had sought to tie down Gulliver with the thousand strings of international law. For a long time, America was the leader in the creation of this multilateral system of international law. Now that it is being used to constrain the United States, the U.S., not surprisingly, is pushing back.

Another factor, and one Canadians feel very strongly about, is the eroding legitimacy of the American domestic model. In contrast, this has produced a sense of pride in the distinctiveness of *our* social model: the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, medicare, all the things we like.

For Americans then, the question is, how to get legitimacy back. And there seem to be two possibilities. There's a liberal agenda that was essentially the John Kerry campaign—make a kinder, gentler America that signs up to Kyoto, that signs up to the International Criminal Court, that will sacrifice a certain amount of sovereignty for the legitimacy gains that accrue by joining a multilateral order.

And also clean house at home. It just isn't sustainable for the richest country in the world to have 45 million Americans without health insurance. It looks ridiculous.

The second way to re-legitimize American power is the conservative option which is "Beat our enemies." Nothing legitimizes power like success. Defeating Islamic terrorism is crucial to the re-legitimization of American power. Success makes friends. Failure creates enemies.

Why should Gulliver be tied down? The giant has been attacked. The giant does not want to be tied down by the UN. It doesn't want to be tied down by the Geneva Convention. It wants to stand up and fight back—and win.



'The application of force does not create legitimate authority. It just creates chaos.'

The electoral difficulty with the liberal model is decisive. Kerry made a very clear proposal to the American electorate that "we need to re-legitimize American power by becoming more multilateral, kinder and gentler and clean up our social deficits at home." And the electorate, to the degree that it understood that option, rejected it decisively.

'YOU can't complain about U.S. military hegemony if you are not prepared to pay for a military of your own'

The other weakness with the liberal model, particularly for Canada, is that we don't pay the piper. You can't complain about U.S. military hegemony if you are not prepared to pay for a military of your own. It is very old-fashioned to say it, but there is no alternative coinage of power than the capacity to deploy military force when you have to. Talking about human rights will not get you there if you can't send a combat-ready brigade to Darfur to fish people out. Any strategy to make multilateralism robust means that middle powers have to invest so that the United States can say, "These guys are serious. These guys have come to the party with some capabilities. We don't have to do everything. We can hand missions to the Canadians—and they will do it."

The weakness of the conservative alternative is its belief that power creates its own legitimacy, that force can be converted into authority. Well, we're looking at what that looks like in Iraq. The application of force does not create legitimate authority. It just creates chaos. This is what hubris is. Hubris is the belief that the sheer application of force, the sheer application of power, will bring minds and souls along. It doesn't. It generates resistance.

Therefore, we're in a situation where neither alternative to the legitimacy deficit is adequate. And I don't have a clever way out. My business, since I'm not running for office, is to present problems, not solutions. But one thing that I feel strongly about, thinking about American power, is that the cost of saying no to the U.S. is going down. Canada said no over Iraq, and the cost was small. France said no to Iraq, and the cost was little. If this were an empire, the cost of saying no would be much, much higher.

The message for Canadians is that saying no is sometimes in the national interest. Historically, it has been in the national interest of our country. The recognition of Cuba, good decision. The Americans don't like it, tough. The recognition of China, good decision. Americans don't like it, tough. Land mines treaty. Americans don't like it, tough. International Criminal Court, good decision. Americans don't like it, tough.

If we understand the limits of American power more coolly, if we understand that the cost of saying no is going down, not up, it gives middle powers such as Canada much more room to manoeuvre, much more room to defend our sovereignty. But there is a price. You can't do it with words. I can't go into a human rights classroom and point to Canada being at the bottom of the Overseas Development Assistance League, at the bottom of the Peacekeeping League. If you want an independent sovereign country, you've got to pay for it.

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ARE WE WHAT WE EAT?

A new book seeks alternatives to our gluttonous ways

EVAN SOLOMON can't get over the fact that U.S. fast-food chain Hardee's is now serving a hamburger with a whopping 1,420 calories, almost triple what's in a Big Mac. "And they sell it for next to nothing," marvels Solomon, co-host of *CBC News: Sunday*. "People should be asking how the hell can they sell beef so cheap? Consumers need to realize that there are other, much greater costs to think about than the few dollars' price."

Solomon's interest in educating people about the pitfalls of how we grow, distribute and consume food goes well beyond discount beef patties. In fact, he and Andrew Heintzman are releasing *Feeding the Future: How the Battle Over Food Is Changing Everything*, their second collection of essays for The Ingenuity Project, an informal think tank they started that seeks solutions to social problems. (The first book, *Fueling the Future*, covered energy and came out last year.) "This is activism but not in the extreme sense," says Heintzman, president of Investeco Capital Corp., which funds environmental businesses. "The goal of these books is to get people talking and thinking about issues."

Heintzman and Solomon probe how we grow, distribute and consume food

This year, 12 experts (along with *Fast Food Nation* author Eric Schlosser, who wrote a forward) were asked to cover a range of controversial food-related topics, including the beef industry, famine, agricultural trade barriers, organic farming, genetically modified food and obesity, exploring innovations and presenting alternatives to wasteful practices. "It's not about condemning," says Solomon, 36. "As soon as you pretend to be righteous, someone will point out that you use gas, eat burgers or are overweight. Most of us are guilty of all three."

The two editors, who previously partnered on the now-defunct digital culture magazine *Shift*, shy away from advocating one theory over another. "We'll never find the magic bullet that will solve all our problems," says Heintzman, 37. "But I'm hopeful we can raise people's consciousness. It's a great sign that people care more about what's in their food. Hopefully now it'll move from looking at the nutritional value on labels to asking where the food came from and how it's grown."

For Solomon, one of the book's most fascinating chapters is about the soaring obesity rates. "We have an overfeeding problem here," he says, "and yet 850 million people are starving in the world. It's hard to go to bed after stuffing your face when you know 40,000 kids in your own city don't have the luxury of saying 'I ate too much tonight.'" ■

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LOVERS, LIARS AND THIEVES

Forget *Alexander*—this season, real men ransack hearts and rob banks

GIVEN THE CHOICE of new movies about men driven by desires of conquest, I'd rather be writing about Alexander. Trashing Oliver Stone's monumentally bad blockbuster would be such fun. I could interpret pre-Christian history through the evolution of Colin Farrell's blond streaks, or the thickening eyeliner of his male co-stars. I could make fun of the Irish accents rampant among Stone's ancient Macedonians (including non-Irish actors like Val Kilmer). I could roll my eyes at the Oedipal ooze between Farrell and Angelina Jolie, who portrays his mother even though she's just a year older. Or ponder Stone's clumsy allusions to both Osama bin Laden's vanishing act and George W. Bush's mission to outstrip his father's imperial ambitions. It's always easier to write a pan than justify a rave. But it seems a shame to squander space on a ludicrous epic about Alexander the Great at the expense of two smaller, infinitely superior tales of modern plunder: *Closer* and *Stander*.

If *Sideways* is the year's best comedy about love and betrayal, then *Closer* is the dramatic counterpart—its evil twin. It, too, has a vein of acid comedy, and consists of a well-tuned quartet of deliciously flawed characters. Adapted by British writer Patrick Marber from his own hit play, *Closer* is directed by American maestro Mike Nichols, who's had a stellar record of adapting stage works, from *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1966) to his more recent HBO productions of *Wit* and *Angels in America*. But as a chilly tale of sexual treachery, *Closer* is most reminiscent of Nichols' 1971 classic, *Carnal Knowledge*, and poses the same uneasy question: when romance becomes spiked with infidelity, which is more cruel, honesty or deceit?

The story begins with a chance encounter between Dan (Jude Law), an obituary writer, and Alice (Natalie Portman), a genuine stripper. The narrative vaults through the years via clean, surgical jump-cuts. Before you know it, Dan is living with Alice, has written a novel about her, and is trying to seduce Anna (Julia Roberts), a photographer who takes portraits of strangers ("stranger" is the script's favourite word). The fourth player, an earthy dermatologist named Larry (Clive Owen), enters after Dan inadvertently sets him up with Anna by posing as a woman in an Internet chat—staged as a hilarious duel of frenetic, filthy typing.

All four performances are superb. From blubbering desperation to coal-black anger, Owen shows devastating range. His is the only honest character in the bunch, but he wields truth like a machete. As a devious writer who cuts the crusts off his sandwiches, Law makes sensitivity and deceit go together like toast and jam. Stripping away more than her clothes, Portman is by turns disarming, fragile and invincible as she plays hide-and-seek with her emotions. And even those allergic to Julia Roberts will appreciate her here—keeping the star wattage dimmed, she underplays her role with a grim transparency.

Marber's meaty script has an epigrammatic wit that's often sharper than life. But rather than blunt the play's theatrical elegance, Nichols preserves it in a silky aspic of formal cinema. With an operatic score and exquisite visual composition, he lets the action unfold like a dark tango, in which the men make the moves, the women hold the power, and love gets left behind. Couples beware: this is a dangerous date movie.

Stander is about stealing money, not hearts. It's based on the true story of Andre Stander, a Johannesburg police captain who became a legendary bank robber under South African apartheid during the late 1970s. Portrayed with star-making dynamism by American actor Tom Jane (*The Punisher*), Stander turns to bank robbery after being traumatized by his role in the killing of anti-apartheid protesters. Covertly humiliating his superiors, he holds up 26 banks while still on the force and then, after four years behind bars, busts out of jail to rob another 20 with fellow outlaws Allan Heyl (David Patrick O'Hara) and Lee McCall (Dexter Fletcher). They become folk heroes, staging heists with brazen audacity—the Stander Gang hits the same bank twice in one day after hearing a news report that they'd missed the safe.

It would make for a richer moral fable if these flamboyant gangsters were looting apartheid's coffers to bankroll the African National Congress. But while the film suggests Stander becomes a criminal to rebel against a criminal regime, he behaves more like a rock star than a revolutionary, complete with a yellow Porsche and a country mansion. He's a mercurial soul, addicted to the rush of armed robbery rather than the cash. And as he goes through chameleon shifts of appearance and mood, Jane morphs from mustachioed cop to beach-blond Sundance Kid. Stander's a lonely outlaw, haunted by emotional debts to his conservative father and to an abandoned wife he never stops loving—played with lethal poise and a spot-on South African accent by Canada's Deborah Kara Unger.



Owen (left), Portman, Roberts and Law all excel in *Closer*'s chilly drama of sexual deceit

COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

STANDER becomes a criminal to rebel against a criminal regime, but behaves more like a rock star than a revolutionary

Shot entirely on location in South Africa, *Stander* is a Canadian co-production directed and co-written by Toronto-born Bronwen Hughes. A former film student at York University, Hughes cut her teeth making commercials, caught Hollywood's attention with short films for *The Kids in the Hall*, then made two studio confections, *Harriet the Spy* (1996) and *Forces of Nature* (1999). "I'm working my way backwards down the budget scale," she joked in an interview last week. "*Stander* is closer to the kind of film that made me want to make films in the first place."

Putting her early training as a journalist to use, Hughes did heavy research in South Africa, and conducted prison interviews with Heyl, the last surviving member of the Stander Gang. With the freewheeling lyricism of '70s cinema, the director upshifts through a synchromesh of styles. She sets the grave political context with a powerful scene of an anti-apartheid township riot involving over a thousand extras, letting the suspense of the standoff accumulate in real time. Later the film turns into a rock 'n' roll lark, a hell-bent *Bonnie and Clyde*. It's utterly intoxicating. This movie makes you want to rob banks—I dare the distributor to use that for a blurb—which comes across as a more noble pursuit than stealing hearts. M

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GIFTS WITH GUSTO

From fashion victims to food fiends, options for the grown-ups on your list



MATERIAL BOY



For the stylish male, 'tis the year of extravagant extremities. Must-have items include the **wrist cuff** in rugged leather or retro-knit wool (including the ones above from Urban Outfitters, $22-$28), and the **chunky ID bracelet** with a clever slogan. Meanwhile, well-turned masculine feet are clad in **funky, colourful socks** (such as the Richard James ones below available at Holt Renfrew, $35) under sturdy **ankle boots**. The **corduroy blazer** is back—elbow patches add that ironic *je ne sais quoi*. And as beauty products go increasingly coed, look for **toners** and **unguents** in un-girly packaging.



GIFTS OF GOODWILL

There are many choices for those who want to spend their money in a spirit of grand largesse. Through World Vision, in your recipient's name you can buy **three piglets for a poor family** for just $105, while for $40 the WWF will make your giftee the **adoptive "parent" of a tiger, gorilla or polar bear**. The growing realm of **fair-trade products** leaves a good taste in one's mouth—there's coffee, tea (such as Kicking Horse brand below, coffee, $12.95, tea $4.79), flowers or chocolate. Recycled products can be stylish ones, such as bags made from rubber or tarp—or look for the **recycled-fiber FELT bags** ($50-$125) by Toronto designer Kathryn Walter.





THE HOME-SWEET-HOME BODY



"Understated" and "pretty" are the watchwords for home decor gifts. **Two-tone textiles** in rich colours for throw pillows and bed linens are the latest trend. **Bird motifs** on wall hangings or curtains add whimsy. Beautiful bath items (including the two Caban products shown here, $20-$22)—especially **soap in art deco boxes**—make great gifts, as do **antique hand mirrors, Bauhaus chairs** are back as display pieces. And for clean air freaks, there are **bacteria-gobbling air purifiers** and even **light bulbs**.

THE FOODIE/WINO



Chocolate, never out of fashion, comes in more guises this year—from the actual chocolate bean to wasabi-flavoured bars. And for loved ones who cherish time in the **kitchen**, chef's **knives**—especially ones from Japan, the choice of many celeb cooks—are always coveted. **Grills** continue to come on strong, and now there are **portable smokers**, too. **Frilly aprons**, meanwhile, are back as a tongue-in-cheek accessory. And for oenophiles, there's the new **Maytag Handy Chiller** ($99), which gets a bottle of white wine to optimal temperature in 3 1/2 minutes.



STOCKING SENSATIONS

Make sure people on your gift list keep warm with some **stylish earmuffs**, or with new fakes on hand-warming—from **elbow-length gloves** to **urban-style hand-knits**. Ornate **compact mirrors** in Eastern-inspired patterns (like the one above available at Holt Rentrew, $20) are a perfect accompaniment to any of the growing number of **all-natural beauty products**. **Electric razors** are back for female depilation. And **Scandinavian-style decorations**—of simple wood or straw—are the latest in Christmas-tree cool.





SHE/HE WHO WORKS TO LIVE

Among the options for people who like to hunker down at the video game console are add-ons such as **PlayStation 2's EyeToy** ($69.99)—new titles like *AntiGrav* (which comes free with EyeToy) and *The Urbz: Sims in the City* ($69.99) make it a worthwhile purchase—or, for the movie lover or serious gamer, the **RX2-5.1 Media Chair** ($1,999), which boasts five built-in surround-sound speakers. For television junkies, **Sony's LocationFree set** ($1,599.99 and up)—connected to a wireless Internet system—lets them walk through the house with their favourite show in their hands. For more active types, there's always a **yoga mat bag** or handy **wearable MP3 players** for runners—**Oakley Thump sunglasses** ($515-$715) even have one attached.

HE/SHE WHO LIVES TO WORK

A new **cellphone** is always appreciated, and the **videophone** is the item du jour. On the other hand, **Bang & Olufsen's new, space age, cordless land line phone** is so futuristic it makes many mobiles look retro. The **Power Mac G5** ($2,099 and up) is also irresistibly pretty, as are many of the new **USB memory drives**. And to help that workaholic get out of bed serenely in the morning, there's the new **Zen Alarm Clock** (US$99), with its subtle chimes. Execs with a sense of humour will appreciate the new **BossMan** and **MoneyMan** ($19.99 each) action figures from the creators of **GeekMan** (alas, no toys yet for corporate women).



MATERIAL GIRL

Coco Chanel once said "Elegance does not consist in putting on a new dress," and gift options for chic women this year go over, under and around frocks. **Anything brocade** or **tweed** is in, especially when softened with silk or cash mere. Fur is everywhere—coat trims, capelets, even scarves and pins, preferably in vintage or faux. **Gold hoop earrings filled with gems, cloche hats** with a masculine twist and **chunky belts** will also be welcome under the tree.

WHAT LUMINARIES GIVE, AND HOPE TO GET

LIANE BALABAN, 24, star of *New Waterford Girl* (1999) and *Seven Times Lucky*, to be released in 2005, usually makes her own gifts. This year it will be U.S. sculptor Joseph Cornell-style "boxes full of mysterious objects, like a tree root and a page from a 1952 encyclopedia." On her hope-to-get list: a harp, the Misfits box set and anything petrified (such as the dinosaur dung she recently spotted for sale at a truck stop in New Mexico).



PAUL QUARRINGTON, 51, award-winning novelist, loves to give musical gifts, so family and friends may find *Blue Rodeo in Stereovision* under the tree (he contributed an appreciation called "Sweet Soul Music" to this, the band's first DVD). His own object of desire? Tony Bennett's *The Art of Romance*.

ROB FEENIE, 39, executive chef/owner of Vancouver's Lumière Restaurant and host of New Classics on Food Network Canada, plans to get six-month-old son Devon his first pair of skates—"he has NHL written all over him." His wish list: getting "the whole family together for a big Christmas dinner" and a slightly taller order, an end to the hockey lockout.

LEAH BOWNESS

TOYLAND TERRFIC

We've scoured the aisles to find some of the best gifts for kids



BABY'S DELIGHT



LAUGH & LEARN LEARNING BIRDBATH (FISHER-PRICE, $30)
Infants learn numbers, colours and shapes while playing with mama and baby bird in pretend water.

BOOFY GIGGLES REMOTE CONTROL (LITTLE TIKES, $35)
The giggling critter moves away from baby, encouraging her to crawl or walk

CLEMMY UP & DOWN (CLEMENTONI, $35)
Combines soft, colourful building blocks and sweet characters

FANTASIA

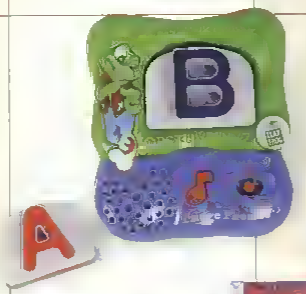
TAKE & PLAY NEIGHBORHOOD (MANNATTAN TOY, $30)
Portable "rooms" made of cloth with tuck-away dolls and accessories.

NOAH'S ARK (PLAYMOBIL, $120)
Floatable ark comes with working crane and 13 pairs of animals.

KNIGHT'S KINGDOM CASTLE OF MORCIA (LEGO, $130-$135)
Features a working drawbridge, a secret dungeon and seven knights.



EINSTEIN JR.



FRIDGE PHONICS MAGNETIC LETTER SET (LEAPFROG, $25-$30)
Plugging in a letter triggers phonics lessons and songs.

V.SMILE TV LEARNING SYSTEM (VTECH, $60-$80)
Kids 3-7 acquire school skills while playing video games

LEAPSTER MULTIMEDIA LEARNING SYSTEM (LEAPFROG, $100)
The educational alternative to Game Boy for 4- to 10 year olds—a hand-held system with games, electronic storybooks and a digital art studio

KIDDIE KINETICS



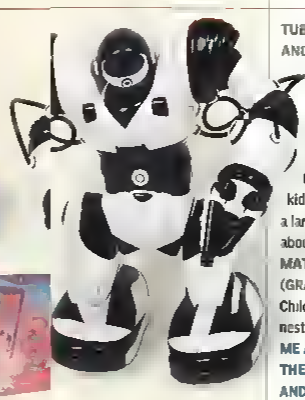
BELLA DANCERELLA (SPIN MASTER, $40-$50)

AND NULLABALOO (CRANIUM, $40)
The first includes a barre, mat and video, the latter is a game that gets kids moving, and an electronic console that MCs.

DOINK IT (MARKY SPARKY, $20)
Badminton with a bounce.

ESKIMOLD (TUNDRA NORTH, $27)
A mold and snow saw for building an igloo.

LECTRONI-KIDS



ZOBOOMAFOO ANIMAL ALPHABET (BRIGHTER CHILD/LEARNING COMPANY, $25-$30)
A software spinoff of the Kratt Brothers' TV show.

ROBOSAPIEN (WOW WEE, $100-$120)
A remote-controlled, programmable, responsive robot.

TAMAGOTCHI CONNECTION (BANDAI, $19)
The digital pets are now able to befriend, and produce "offspring," with each other.

SPY LAZER CHASE (WILD PLANET, $30)
A high tech version of tag for two players.

CREATIVE SPIRITS

TUB TUNES WATER DRUMS AND WATER FLUTES (BIG BOING, $15 EACH)
They're "tuned" by varying levels of water.

AQUADOODLE (SPIN MASTER, $40)
Using a "magic water pen," kids 2 and up make drawings on a large mat that disappear after about a minute.

MATRIOSHKA DOLL KIT (GRAND RIVER TOYS, $20)
Children can paint their own five nesting dolls.

ME AND MY FRIENDS: THE BOOK OF US AND KNITTING (KLUTZ, $23, $30)
An elaborate friendship journal and an inviting primer



FUN AND GAMES

KATAMINO (GIGAMIC, $35)
For ages 3 to adult, a puzzle game testing spatial skills.

20Q (RADICA, $25)
Twenty questions goes electronic with a small ball that tries to guess what's on your mind

THINGS . . . NUMOUR IN A BOX (OUTSET MEDIA, $40)
A new Canadian creation for ages 8 and up, in which players try to guess who wrote responses to prompt cards such as "things you shouldn't say to your parents"

BOB OR BETTY THE BUILDER



FISH-EYED FRIENDS (K'NEX, $17)
A sea-creature kit for 3- to 7 year-olds.

PREHISTORIC CREATURES DESIGNER SET (LEGO, $40)
For children 7 and up, a kit for making at least eight animals

CLIKITS MY SPECIAL STORAGE SPACE (LEGO, $50)
Girls can make their own pencil holders, beauty boxes, frames, etc.

ELECTRIC BUBBLE BLOWING MACHINE (TREE TOYS, $30)
An assembly kit for 10 and up.

DIGITAL RECORDING LAB (EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS, $55)
Kids 10 and over can build circuit boards to, among other things, record and synthesize their own voices





A CHRISTMAS CONSPIRACY

The TV ads. The wish list. The revised list. It can drive a parent nuts.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR, I thought I was ahead of the game. A few weeks earlier, I had overheard my nine-year-old son extolling the virtues of a K'nex pinball to one of his friends. He'd been hypnotized into wanting the do-it-yourself kit courtesy of the many commercials on YTV. "It's cool," he beamed. "Ya gotta build it first and then you get to play!" I have to admit that I could see the attraction. Yes, here was a toy worthy of the three-hour drive to Halifax from our home in Yarmouth.

Off I went. I checked into a hotel near the Mic Mac Mall so I could get an early start to my shopping the next day. I arrived at the mall at 9 a.m. feeling oh so smug. I figured I'd waltz into Toys "R" Us, get what I came for and be out in 10 minutes.

Wrong. I quickly found out that only the anchor stores opened at 9, all the others opened at 9:30 a.m. Fine, no problem—I wasn't really in a hurry to get back home. I decided to window shop. But as I rounded a corner, off in the distance I saw a throng of people gathered outside the toy store. Okay, I thought, forget browsing—those people obviously know something I don't.

Rather than taking the chance of going home empty-handed after my long car trip and overnight stay in the big city, I hustled over to the crowd to see why they'd gathered. There they were, expectant faces turned toward the metal mesh curtain that separated us from the mecca of toys.



"What's going on?" I asked no one in particular. People looked at me as though I had two heads. "It's their sale," a woman hissed as she clutched a copy of the store's flyer in a death grip. I let out a quiet, "oh."

The woman pointed to a group of about 10 intense looking adults. "You see those people over there?" she said. "They're smart. They got their shopping carts from another store so they won't have to waste time looking for one inside when they let us in." I uttered another "oh." My up mood was starting to sink.

Then a woman on my right piped in, "You know, if you want more than one item it's best to come with someone else, so they can go down one aisle while you go down another." I was feeling out of my element and close to panicking. "I don't know what aisle K'nex are in," I gasped. "Veer left," the pro on my left offered.

I looked beyond the mesh curtain, hoping to catch a glimpse of K'nex when I noted metal pipes sticking up out of the floor. They are normally used to safeguard shopping carts, but that day they presented an obstacle—and not one to be crushed against when the crowd started to move. As the curtain began to rise, I felt like a Christian being fed to the lions. And in the true spirit of Christmas, rather than wait for the curtain to clear their heads, people dive bombed underneath it.

I tried to keep ahead of the tidal wave behind me. Fortunately, I spied a clerk in a telltale red shirt. "K'nex?" I hollered.

"Over there," he said and pointed three rows to the left. I rushed toward the designated aisle. At the far end of it I saw a portly man reaching down for the toy I was after. Everything appeared in slow motion—but when the man looked up at me, there was a twinkle in his eye. Santa? I wondered. "There's more than one, you know," he said. I suddenly felt sheepish. He offered me the large box in his hands. I took it and said a heartfelt, "Thank you." I headed to the check out grinning from ear to ear and, $149 later, still felt elated. Mission accomplished.

On the drive home I thought about the few stocking stuffers that I still needed to buy. I also wondered how the people who'd stood around me outside the store had fared. I arrived home under cover of the early winter night and waited for my son to fall asleep before bringing the toy in from the car. I secreted it away in my annual hiding place—the blanket box at the foot of my bed that usually supports a laundry basket.

Last week of November 2003. My son had just written his letter to Santa. Reading it, I had to face the sad truth: there was no mention of a pinball machine. Instead, he told Santa he'd been a good boy, that he'd leave him and his reindeer a snack—and that he would like a PlayStation and a Beyblade stadium for Christmas. Beyblade stadium? I felt queasy—a friend had already told me there weren't any to be found in Halifax. I would have to call Toronto.

Christmas. Happy, my son spent the day putting together his pinball machine, the Beyblade stadium barely got a nod.

I don't know if there will be a letter to Santa this year, but my son has let me know a Yu-Gi-Oh! Duel Disk is on his list. I cringe when I think of what I may be up against. The coveted toy in short supply, a wish list that may change, it's all conspiracy to drive the well-intended parent crazy. And yet, I find myself putting all that aside and planning my next shopping trip to Halifax. Why? Because it's Christmas. M

Janice Comeau is a freelance writer living in Yarmouth. To comment: overtoyou@macleans.ca

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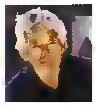
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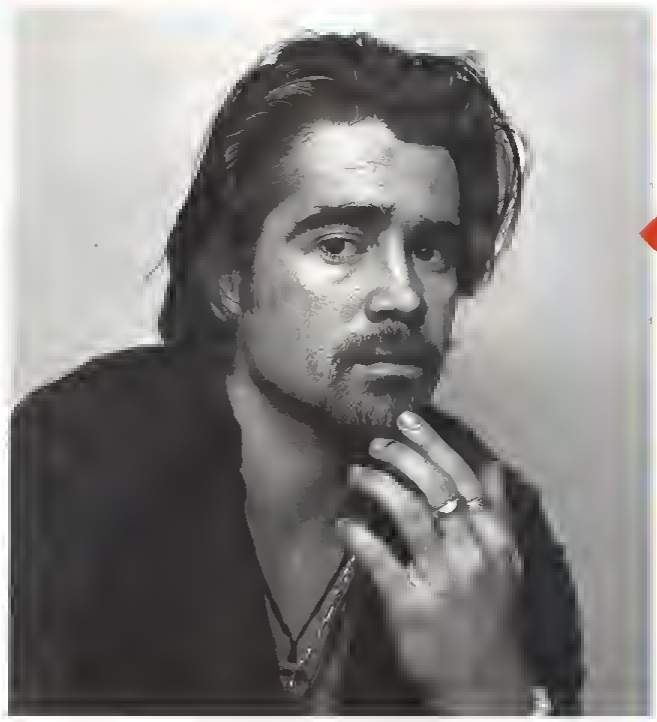
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A Hollywood pretty boy who's not afraid to get a little dirty

Hard to say who has the wilder reputation, Farrell or Alexander

There's dirt under **Colin Farrell**'s untrimmed fingernails. But it's not all that surprising, considering that the hard-drinking, skirt-chasing screen star comes across more like an Irish working-class sniff than a Hollywood leading man. And though he has a rep for stirring things up, Farrell, 28, is very accommodating while promoting **Oliver Stone**'s *Alexander*, in Toronto. He even apologizes for complaining. "I'm not a wine connoisseur and don't want to cause any trouble," Farrell tells the hotel's bartender, "but this is a bit cold for a red wine."

Farrell is as much a man's man as he is a ladies' man. He peppers his conversations with obscenities and never turns down a chance to have a pint with his lads. He also doesn't back down from challenges—such as learning, in six weeks, how to ride bareback for his role as **Alexander the Great**. But doing some of his own stunts took a toll, including broken bones in his heel and wrist—and a little dirt on his hands. JOHN INTINI

> 'I was looking for a young god who could act. An Alexander who could walk into the room and look in the eyes of any man, and move them to be beyond themselves.' —Stone

BUZZ LIST

Anyone else still recovering from the image of the Prince of Darkness chasing a burglar around the house naked?

COLIN FARRELL
Playboy takes a stab at world domination in *Alexander*.

Note to TV fans: most journalists are not as good-looking as the ones played by **Sonja Smits** and company.



The NBC drama is coming to the Toronto area to shoot three episodes. The Canuck locations will stand in for Iowa and New Hampshire, early battlegrounds in the U.S. election. Fictional enfranchisement is better than none.

Music odd couple will record a version of **David Bowie** and **Bing Crosby**'s *Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy* Wonder who'll wear Crosby's nifty cardigan?



The Kingston, Ont., band will be inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. Moxy Früvous is still waiting.

Locked-out players are now earning a monthly stipend of US$10,000. Is that what the league meant by a salary cap?

Music | Nirvana comes as they were

In the decade since Nirvana ceased to exist, the band's legacy has begun to resemble the clothes Kurt Cobain wore—frayed and torn. Two posthumous albums did Nirvana's reputation more harm than good: 1996's *From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah* is a weak, poorly recorded live affair; and 2002's greatest hits CD can be charitably described as completely unnecessary, considering the band only put out three proper records. In effect, those slipshod releases allowed the music to be overshadowed by lurid details of the band's biography—the Kurt and Courtney soap opera and Cobain's suicide in 1994.

But the new three-disc, one-DVD box set of rarities, *With the Lights Out*, offers a reminder of why the band's ear-scraping sound—propelled by Cobain's desperate, anti-hero howl—was so popular and critically acclaimed in the '90s. Among the many never-before-heard standouts are *Ain't It a Shame*, a Lendbelly tune to which Cobain lends his cathartic scream, *Old Age*, a song he gave to Courtney Love's band Hole, and *Do Re Mi*, a stunning acoustic ballad he recorded shortly before his death. Even more surprising are the pretty, folk-style demos of acerbic tracks like *Rape Me* and *Serve the Servants*. The band had to work hard to rid them of sentimentality for the finished versions, and that sort of dedication is also evident on the DVD, which includes inspired performances from the band's tours. By celebrating Cobain's music, *With the Lights Out* might just be enough to mend Nirvana's tattered legacy. JONATHAN DURBIN

In the new box set, Cobain's musical legacy gets its due





Photos | Pour some sugar on me

Being covered in 12 gallons of chocolate syrup sounds fun, but it's something **Radiohead's Thom Yorke** took seriously. He and 15 other celebs offered to be pelted, soaked and doused in food products in photos for Oxfam's new campaign against agricultural dumping—which occurs when developed nations flood Third World markets with food, driving down prices and making it impossible for local farmers to compete. Actress **Minnie Driver** was hit with cotton, **Bono** with sugar and **Coldplay's Chris Martin** with rice. "I wanted to do more than put them in Make Trade Fair T-shirts," says photographer **Greg Williams**. "Since the themes were waste and dumping, this made sense." For **Alanis Morissette**, being drowned in wheat was reminiscent of getting "slimed" on the Canadian show *You Can't Do That On Television*. "The wheat sticks were easier to clean up," she says, "but potentially more dangerous. You couldn't lose an eye being slimed by a mix of cream of wheat, food colouring and shampoo." JOHN INTINI

Antonio Banderas (clockwise from top left), Michael Stipe, Yorke and Morissette in Oxfam's new campaign

THE PERCENTAGE of Canadians who've tried illicit drugs at least once increased from 28.5 in 1994 to 45 this year.

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL. GREG WILLIAMS/COURTESY OF OXFAM





Jenny Gear finishes John Intini's sentences

Jenny Gear's fifth place finish on the first *Canadian Idol* (2003) was proof voters weren't ready for such a unique talent. But the smoky-voiced singer is back, and earlier this fall self-released her debut CD, *Jenny Gear and the Whiskey Kittens* (available at *jennygear.ca*). The 22-year-old native of Carbonear, Nfld., finished *Maclean's* Assistant Editor **John Intini**'s sentences.

THE PERFECT BLIND DATE WOULD END UP BEING **Leonard Cohen**. He seems to understand women better than most men. And *Hallelujah* was my favourite song as a kid. My parents played it whenever they tried to put me to sleep.

THE ONE THING I DON'T MISS ABOUT *CANADIAN IDOL* was having five people doing my makeup at the same time and not being able to lick my lips or move my hair so as not to ruin their art.

I'M FREAKED OUT BY aliens. Although the thought of extraterrestrial activity intrigues me, it's also scary. I've never had any contact with any, but I believe life on other planets exists.

THE SMALLEST CROWD THAT PAID TO SEE ME was 10 people for a play I was in about Newfoundland's history. There were more in the cast than the audience.

I'VE BEEN READING *Wicked* by **Gregory Maguire**. It's about the life and times of the Wicked Witch of the West.

I CAN'T EAT meat from a can.

FOR MORE "JOHN INTINI'S SENTENCES" VISIT WWW.MACLEANS.CA/PEOPLE

ESSENTIAL GEAR

1. Jenny Gear's self-titled CD features 11 songs by 11 songwriters from Newfoundland.
2. All of the tracks on Gear's debut disc were recorded at her grandmother's home.
3. Is a writer/actor with Carbonear's Rebel Island Theatre Company.

"MOTHER" WAS NAMED THE MOST beautiful English word in a poll of people from 102 non-English-speaking countries. "Passion" came in second

Books | Pirates, cloud cats and romance

Toronto children's author Kenneth Oppel has taken to the air before, most notably in his bestselling *Silverwing* trilogy about a heroic young bat. But it's his latest human-centred fantasy that brought him a Governor General's award last month. Set in a faux Victorian world, where giant gas-filled airships travel the skies, *Airborn* tells the story of 15-year-old cabin boy Matt Cruse and his luxury airship Aurora. Rescued by Matt, a dying old man in a hot-air balloon raves about the strange creatures he has seen in the clouds. Hallucinations, clearly—but a year later, when the balloonist's granddaughter boards the Aurora determined to prove the existence of the so-called cloud cats, Matt is no longer so sure. A *Treasure Island*-level thriller with dangerous storms and even more dangerous pirates to overcome, and a sweet little romance to boot, *Airborn* is smart and exciting.



AIRBORN
Kenneth Oppel
HarperCollins, $15.99

BestSellers

Fiction

		POSITION LAST WEEK
1.	**RUNAWAY**, Alice Munro (9)	1
2.	**A COMPLICATED KINDNESS**, Miriam Toews (23)	3
3.	**THE DA VINCI CODE**, Dan Brown (73)	5
4.	**THE DA VINCI CODE: SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED EDITION**, Dan Brown (1)	
5.	**I AM CHARLOTTE SIMMONS**, Tom Wolfe (3)	2
6.	**THE LINE OF BEAUTY**, Alan Hollinghurst (5)	7
7.	**ALL THAT MATTERS**, Wayson Choy (7)	4
8.	**THE SUNDAY PHILOSOPHY CLUB**, Alexander McCall Smith (7)	6
9.	**WOLVES EAT DOGS**, Martin Cruz Smith (1)	
10.	**ADULTERY**, Richard Wright (8)	10

Non-fiction

1.	**HERE BE DRAGONS**, Peter C. Newman (2)	1
2.	**THE MUSEUM CALLED CANADA**, Charlotte Gray (5)	9
3.	**EATS, SHOOTS AND LEAVES**, Lynne Truss (29)	3
4.	**TO RULE THE WAVES**, Arthur Herman (4)	5
5.	**CHRONICLES, VOLUME ONE**, Bob Dylan (5)	2
6.	**TREE**, David Suzuki and Wayne Grady (2)	4
7.	**WORTH FIGHTING FOR**, Sheila Copps (4)	6
8.	**WAR**, Gwynne Dyer (1)	
9.	**HISTORY OF BEAUTY**, Umberto Eco (2)	7
10.	**WRONG WAY**, Jacquie McNish and Sinclair Stewart (3)	8

() Weeks on list
Compiled by Brian Bethune

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEITH ROSE



Lianne George | ON STYLE



Fashion cares—this season

Now that the election is over, what cause will all the edgy designers deem worthy?

"APATHY IS SO LAST SPRING," reads the website of U.S. designers Politpunk, purveyors of hip, novelty T-shirts. And they're quite right. In the world of high fashion, this fall was all about gem tones, herringbone tweeds and style-savvy democratic engagement. Top designers from Isaac Mizrahi to DKNY introduced glam, voting-themed creations. Marc Jacobs took a more partisan approach, outfitting the windows of his New York boutique with anti-Bush merchandise and offering free Kerry yo-yos with every purchase. But with the matter of the U.S. presidency resolved, designers will need a new progressive cause to throw their brand support behind. Because in the world of fashion, political convictions—just like hemlines—are seasonal.

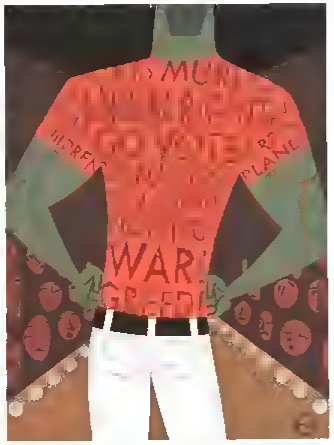
The marriage of politics and fashion has always been a fickle one, primarily because of the industry's famously short attention span. Take Cindy Crawford. Ten years ago, as part of PETA's fashion-forward anti-fur ad campaign, the supermodel posed for a billboard which pronounced she'd "rather go naked than wear fur." These days, as the new face of Blackglama, an exclusive U.S. mink furrier, she'd rather wear fur. (In fact, the entire industry appears to have rediscovered fur. Animal rights, it seems, are so over.) Disappointing, maybe. But since when did anyone start looking to style mavens for lessons in morality and civic duty?

Back in the '80s, Benetton pioneered the use of progressive political messaging as a marketing tool with Oliviero Toscani's hugely successful United Colors of Benetton campaign. Toscani's images drew on every hot button issue from capital punishment to genocide—all in the name of selling overpriced casualwear.

From a marketing perspective, these two worlds are a natural pairing. Fashion is all about "edge," and what better way to garner edge for your brand than to situate it in a politically charged context? Increasingly, though, we're becoming inundated with fashion punditry—and what was once risqué now just seems patronizing, or worse, boring. Kenneth Cole is by far the worst offender. With the brand's recent "Are you putting us on?" campaign, Cole informs consumers that gun control, gay rights, censorship and gender inequality are all very, *very* serious issues. Last year, British designer Katharine Hamnett tackled the AIDS epidemic in Africa by featuring Naomi Campbell on the runway, strutting in a tankini with "Use a Condom" spelled out in crystals.

But perhaps the most outrageous recent example of politics and fashion colliding came from an Israeli fashion house called Comme il faut. The company's summer 2004 catalogue featured models in floral-print frocks cavorting along Israel's West Bank security barrier. The purpose, they said, was to create "a dialogue around boundaries." Like, perhaps, the idea that brightly garbed teens don't belong within the boundaries of a hot zone.

Don't be surprised if, by next spring, studied apathy is back on the runways, bigger than ever. After all, by then, it'll be retro. M



To comment: lianne.george@macleans.rogers.com



Pets | Dogs of the rich and famous

In the past two years, a new genre of magazines has sprung up to celebrate a burgeoning demographic: "urban dogs" (the kind who wear nail polish and cashmere peacoats) and their style-savvy owners. The first, Vancouver-based *Modern Dog*, features articles on everything from doggie psychology to fashion trends. New Orleans-based *Urban Dog* publishes profiles of celebrities' canines. And *The New York Dog*, a high-gloss bimonthly, will fill you in on your pet's "Doggiescope" and answer such burning questions as, "Can my dog join me on the Atkins diet?" L.G.

Trend | A new flashdance

Many public places around the world are turning into dance floors thanks to mobile clubbing (*www.mobileclubbing.com*). The trend—the brainchild of two London artists—is an extension of flash mobbing, which saw masses of tech-savvy hipsters congregating in unexpected locations last year. Now, mobile clubbers check the website to find out when and where the next event will be (most often a train or subway station during rush hour), show up and dance wildly to their iPods or Walkmans—creating a spontaneous club atmosphere amid thousands of confused commuters. Think of it as subway line dancing.

KARIN MARLEY

ILLUSTRATION BY LUC LATULIPPE

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Money's Worth | Pooper scoopers

Picking up where Rover left off

Once upon a time, people simply opened the door and let the dog out. A canine's business was just that—*his* business. These days, however, with the vast majority of Canadians living in urban environments, rules for responsible pet ownership have become a little more strict. Key among them: pick up after your dog. It's one of the easiest and most effective ways to preserve neighbourhood harmony. For one thing, rainwater runoff from feces can contaminate groundwater. For another, when you're walking around with Brutus the bull mastiff at your side, there's just no pretending that a certain pile was left by Princess the Pekingese. But thanks to the booming pet industry—which pulls in more than $3 billion a year in Canada—there's an increasing number of gadgets and devices available to make picking up after your pooch an easier, less revolting experience. Whether you're the queasy type, or you have a back problem that makes bending painful, there's some sort of gizmo for you. We compared four pick-up methods to determine the most convenient—and least offensive—one.

BARBARA WICKENS

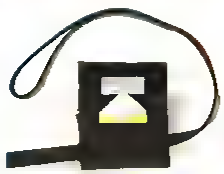
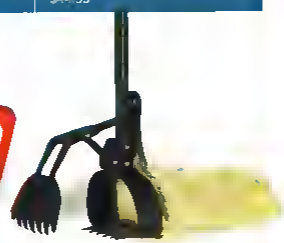
THE VERDICT The only thing more disgusting than picking up after your dog is *not* picking up after your dog. There's really no getting around it. Luckily, if you're squeamish, there's now a whole slew of hands-off products on the market to help you get the job done.

OUR PICK: Finding the right canine cleanup product for you is a highly subjective matter. Generally, using plastic bags is quicker and less troublesome than scoops or shovels. Also, this method will keep the stash of grocery bags under your kitchen sink from becoming unwieldy.



What's in Store

Locating the source of problem pet odours sometimes takes some sleuthing. Enter the Stink Free Stink-Finder ($17.50), a handheld device that runs on AA batteries and looks like it belongs on the set of *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. Darken the room and the Stink-Finder's UV light will help you locate any stains from "biological contaminants." Available at pet stores.

REGULAR PLASTIC BAG Free	COLLAR CATCHER $9.96	SCOOPER $6.99	POOP HOUND $44.95
			
WHAT IT IS			
The original mess picker upper. The "grab, invert and tie" technique is time-tested and about as straightforward as it gets.	A discreet nylon case that holds 10 folded plastic bags (refills sold separately). Case attaches to dog's leash or collar via Velcro closures—which means you'll never have to worry about leaving it at home.	Clamp this clamshell device around a plastic bag and use it to do the the actual "picking up" for you. Comes with 24 biodegradable bags.	All of the scooping with none of the stooping. This is an increasingly popular product category. With this model, squeeze the handle to make the raking arm sweep the refuse into the attached bag.
IDEAL FOR			
The frugal. Also satisfies the "reuse" requirement of the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recyle).	The forgetful or, conversely, the hyper organized.	The squeamish. The contraption acts as a nice psychological barrier between you and the contents of the bag.	Multiple dog owners, gadget lovers and those who have trouble bending over.
VERDICT			
It's simple. It's easy. It makes use of something you'd otherwise just throw away. But definitely not the best option for the faint of stomach.	Convenient, but if you have a big dog, these dainty bags will likely not be up to the job.	Works well even in tall grass, although a lot of dog owners might find it's more hassle than it's worth. Plus you have to remember to bring it along.	Good for yard clean up only. Too cumbersome for walks. Also, device requires hosing down after each use.

TIP: For the earth-friendly dog lover who doesn't mind spending the money, most pet shops now sell biodegradable bags as an alternative to plastic.

For past Money's Worth product test drives, go to *www.macleans.ca/consumer*

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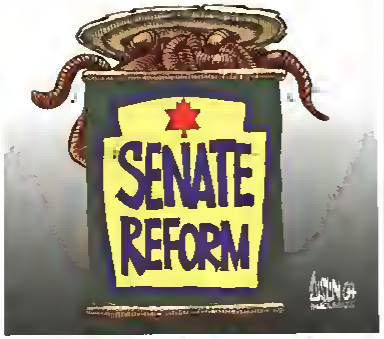
TRIPLE-E ENTRAPMENT

Why electing senators would only entrench the shafting of the West

AT LONG LAST, PROGRESS. After saying "yes" to absolutely everything proposed by just about everybody for the last three years, the Prime Minister has found something to say "no" to. As a bonus, "no" is actually the right answer.

What made the big guy find the guts to stop pandering? I think he finally started listening to the lessons of his predecessors.

The occasion for this rare display of historical literacy was the Alberta provincial election. Ralph Klein won again. Four candidates for the federal Senate were elected, too. Paul Martin refused to appoint them. He said Senate reform should be wholesale, not piecemeal. And reading between the lines, one suspects he's pencilled in the wholesale reform for, approximately, never.



Good for him.

Why should he ignore Alberta's Senate election? Because electing senators would not fix the shafting of the West, it would entrench it.

A prime minister who consistently appointed elected senators would be giving the Senate a legitimacy it doesn't have today. Senators today are pleasant anachronisms, but the knowledge of that fact endows most of them with a becoming modesty. They study bills closely. They catch enough egregious mistakes and propose enough helpful amendments to make them worth keeping around. But they rarely do anything to seriously gum up the work of Parliament.

What happens if Martin starts naming elected senators? Soon every province will follow suit. Senators will have democratic mandates. Thus emboldened, they'll be tempted to throw their weight around.

And suddenly their weight will start to matter. Here's where the problems start. Remember the Triple E Senate, the idea that we should have Elected and Effective Senate delegations arriving in Equal number from each province? Well, abandon hope. Today, Senate seats are apportioned according to no earthly logic: 24 to Quebec, 24 to Ontario, 24 to "the West"—defined as the four provinces west of Ontario—and 30 to the Atlantic provinces, including six to late-arriving Newfoundland and Labrador. (Add one senator from each northern territory and you reach the total of 105.)

Well. To reach anyone's idea of equality, somebody will have to gain and lose senators. But no province would give up senators once they actually become worth having. So in all likelihood, piecemeal reform leads straight to a Senate whose membership is frozen into place right where it stands now. For the life of me I can't imagine why any Albertan would want that.

An elected, effective Senate where almost a third—29 per cent—of the members come from the Atlantic provinces? Even though they have only 7.3 per cent of the population among them? A Senate with clout but with only 23 per cent of its members from the four Western provinces, who together have about 30 per cent of the population?

Even if some miracle produced an equal Senate, it wouldn't be worth having. Maybe 3.2 million Albertans think it would be swell to share equal status with 140,000 Prince Edward Islanders. But I notice nobody asked the 4.2 million British Columbians whether they agree.

Or the 7.5 million Quebecers. Because through their government, they would have a say, too.

The Prime Minister doesn't need a constitutional amendment to appoint an elected senator. But he would absolutely need one to amend the number of senators each province gets. And by a law Jean Chrétien's Liberals passed after the 1995 referendum, Quebec gets a veto over any such amendment. The price of Quebec's consent? Sources inside that province's government tell me they would demand constitutional recognition of Quebec's distinct society.

So as soon as Paul Martin starts appointing elected senators, he puts the country on an express train toward sclerosis on one hand, or a rerun of the Meech Lake debates on the other.

Now, it must be tempting for a Liberal leader obsessed with pleasing "the West" to ignore all that logic. But even Martin has managed to resist. Why? Because the example of his predecessors speaks too eloquently. Pierre Trudeau devoted the end of his career to constitutional tinkering and failed to please elites in Alberta and Quebec. Brian Mulroney tried to finish Trudeau's job, the resulting tensions blew Mulroney's party to pieces.

The lesson Chrétien took from all this was that fixing a problem might actually be worse than ignoring it, because any conceivable solution would only make things worse. Martin has decided Chrétien's example is more valuable than Mulroney's and Trudeau's. It's the right choice. But you'll understand if he doesn't crow about it too loudly. M

To comment: backpage@macleans.ca
Read Paul Wells's weblog, "Inkless Wells," at *www.macleans.ca/paulwells*

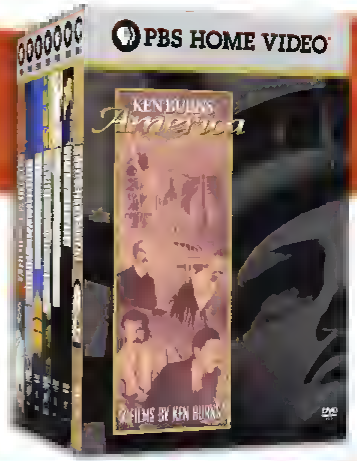
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